Dylan

Becca has three children and is 6 months pregnant. Dylan is 2 ½ years old. Corbin is 20 months old. Baxter is 9 months old. The new baby will be a girl. The children’s father is out of the picture due to domestic violence. They live just outside of town in a rented mobile home. Her mother lives in town, but is not much help with the children. She struggles with alcoholism. Becca is a high school graduate and would like to go to the local community college to become a CNA.

Becca says she is overwhelmed with being a single parent to three young children with another one on the way. She expresses that home life is chaotic and exhausting, but she is doing the best she can. When the children are at home, they primarily watch television. They are good about playing with one another. They spend most of the time indoors as she does not feel like she can manage them outside by herself. Her time is spent with caregiving routines. Becca says that she would be happy if Dylan could learn to walk, talk, eat without making a mess, and stop throwing tantrums every time people can’t understand him or he does not get what he wants.

Dylan and Corbin attend the local Early Head Start program. Their classroom has two teachers with eight children of mixed ages from 6 months to 3 years. Dylan has cerebral palsy, which limits his mobility and communication. He is a voracious eater, but has a hard time eating and drinking independently. Although his teacher is very patient with him, she spends most of her time during snack and meals mopping up his spills and making sure he gets enough food to eat. She has to be right next to him when he is eating and/or drinking. Dylan desperately wants to be the class leader and would like to hold the door open when the children go outside and return to the classroom. He likes to eat, paint, be a big brother, and play with the blocks.

Terra is Dylan’s EHS teacher. She is responsible for Dylan, Corbin, another boy, and one girl. She does not care for an infant since Dylan requires so much assistance. Terra literally follows Dylan around on her knees to help him walk more independently. She feels that by staying close to him, she decreases the number of tantrums due to his frustration with his inability to walk on his own and communicate effectively. Her knees and back are beginning to cause her some discomfort at the end of the day. Mealtimes and outdoor activities are her biggest challenges. The learning philosophy is based on child interests and everyday learning opportunities. The teachers follow the children’s leads and work to elaborate on and extend the learning based on the children’s interests.

Corbin has blossomed in the EHS classroom. He is now using a few words, pointing, running and playing on the playground, and enjoys expressing his independence.

Baxter is waiting for a space in the EHS classroom. Becca is hopeful that Baxter will be walking by the time the new baby is born so she will not have two children to carry.