



Reagan's Story

As the parents of four children, Gina and Brian were a little more relaxed about their youngest daughter “not talking enough” amidst the hustle and bustle of daily life. When her second birthday rolled around, though, they decided to talk with their pediatrician about their concerns. The pediatrician mentioned that Birth to Three might be able to help, but recommended that they rule out a hearing loss first. Brian and Gina learned that Reagan’s hearing was fine, but thought about her language skills and how hard it was to understand her, and thus decided to call Birth to Three.

“The evaluators were very knowledgeable and forthcoming with information,” says Gina. “They didn’t make Reagan feel like she was being tested. We were not particularly surprised by their initial findings and we were eager to get started.” Now Reagan looks forward to visits from her speech and language therapist, Alicia.

“Reagan was talking a mile a minute, but we couldn’t understand what she was saying,” says Alicia. “In the beginning, it was all about building rapport with Reagan. We set up a picture board so she could show her mom specifically what she wanted inside the refrigerator.” “When Reagan would point to the fridge, I’d have to guess whether it was cheese or a piece of fruit or a drink of milk that she wanted, which was a challenge,” says Gina. Gina and Alicia try to keep every visit different, using crafts and games with her brother as an opportunity to give verbal labels to everything. “Reagan loves to play! She learns best through games and having fun,” says her mom. “I’ve also found it to be really helpful to be reminded to use LOTS of descriptive words with Reagan. I don’t just tell her that it’s time to get dressed. Now I say, ‘put on your green pants and white shirt.’” “Now that she can communicate better she and her 4 year old brother can play together with a lot less frustration.”, says Gina. Her older sisters are glad she is making progress too. “Reagan can be more communicative about her likes and dislikes which has dramatically cut down on her whining and improved her familial relationships.”

Reagan’s dad, Brian, says, “Before she started with Birth to Three it was obvious that she was struggling, and that was overflowing onto other parts of her life. Now she has more confidence and is much happier. That will serve her well once she starts school.” Reagan enjoys going to the local playgroup with her mom, tried gymnastics this past summer, and loves to play with all of her cousins. “We just want her to be happy,” say her parents, “and Birth to Three has really helped.”