



Kofi's Story

"I think he'll be a scientist or archeologist", says Kofi's Dad, Kwasi. "Or maybe a rock star!", says his Mom, Georgelet. Kofi loves dinosaurs and trains, and he loves to play the guitar and sing. His Grandpa came all the way from Ghana to be with him and his Grandma enjoys playing with him every day. Even the family dog, Jordan, never grows tired of playing with Kofi, letting him pull on his ears and lay on his back. "When he was little he didn't talk very much and had some feeding problems. Our doctor recommended Birth to Three and they suggested we also work with the CCMC Feeding Team." Services are coordinated across all of the providers, including Kofi's pediatrician, so that everyone is working together. "Sarah comes to our home every week and really goes above and beyond for him. She and Marney are like old friends of the whole family. They have been a part of our life for a year and a half and Kofi's improvement has been great!"

Sarah says, "They told me that in Ghana, you don't worry as much about the children because the whole community pitches in. We were like the neighbors that help raise the child. They were very accepting of our suggestions but also set limits for us so that the supports could fit into their busy lives. The teacher on the team and I made co-visits, and with their permission we spoke regularly with the hospital feeding team and developmental pediatrician. Grandma was a very important member of Kofi's team. The family talked everything through and made decisions together. They showed me the power of love and the power of respect through the unity and strength of their family and the joy they have for Kofi."

Marney is the developmental specialist on the team, and says that this family has really taught her a lot. Sometimes doctors and parents and the Birth to Three team members each see a child differently. "This family gave me a whole new perspective on being family-centered. It really has been a pleasure working with them. Kofi's Mom not only follows suggestions, but she also gives me feedback on what is working and what is not. It is a true collaboration filled with caring and respect."

Georgelet smiles and says, "They explained to us that all kids with his diagnosis are different. They helped us with that a lot." Kwasi continues, "Sarah taught us that every child is different, and every child is special. Kofi cannot talk so well, but he can read and loves books. He is an amazing kid."

"We are blessed to have him. We just want him to grow up to be very successful."