**Case History**

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| **Name:**  | Miah |  | **Date of Interview:**  | July 8, 2011 |
| **DOB:**  | August 17, 2010 |  | **Parent Name:**  | Maria |
| **Chronological Age:** **Hearing Age:** | 11 months8 months |  | **Report Date:****Report Written By:** | July 15, 2011Starr Vickers |
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**Background Information**

Miah is an 11 month female who was born with a bilateral mild to moderate sensorineural hearing loss due to Connexin 26. She was born to full term and has no other known health concerns or disabilities. It is said that her development is progressing normally with some advanced motor skills. Miah is an only child and lives with her mother, Maria and her father. Both of her parents are hearing and there is no family history of hearing loss. At home, the primary language is English although the grandparents speak Spanish when they are together.

**Hearing Background**

Miah’s hearing loss was first suspected during the newborn otoacoustic emissions hearing screening, and confirmed by two auditory brainstem response tests at one month and two months of age. At three months of age, Miah was fitted with Phonak hearing aids and has been wearing them during all waking hours, which is approximately 10 to 12 hours per day. Although she is 11 months, her hearing aids started working at 3 months, therefore Miah’s hearing age is eight months.

**Therapy and Services**

Maih has been receiving Auditory Verbal Therapy since she was 10 months old. Her mother, Maria, takes her to the Children’s’ Hearing and Speech Centre of BC once a week. Their Auditory Verbal Therapist, Loretta visits their home every 2-3 months. Maria has found emotional support and great recommendations from her Auditory Verbal Therapist. She mentioned that Loretta understands the implications of being a parent with a child with hearing loss. Also, she is very receptive when asked for help and answers all the questions that she has. Maria learns ways to engage with her daughter and uses these skills everyday with her. Maria focuses on age appropriate sounds and uses familiar language. Maria has many toys in the house, that were recommended that have been helpful to connect with her daughter. She has farm animals where she can make animal sounds She has many recommended resources at home such as toys, books, and videos that make sounds. Maria will also sing songs to connect them with certain activities. There is a diaper changing song and certain songs that match a book. For example, the Baa Baa Blacksheep song is sung for the book that has a sheep on the cover and then Maih finds it and they read it together. They read the same storybooks repeatedly and sing the same songs and rhymes over and over.

 **Challenges**

There have been some big challenges having a daughter with a hearing loss and they are learning to overcome them over time, with more education and with progress. A non-emotional issue is that Maih takes her hearing aids out about 30 times a day. Maria has to constantly search for them and it can be very frustrating when out in public and on the move. She realizes that she has to be more mindful of the environments and situations they are in. They went to watch the fireworks and noticed that the noises were bothering Maih and they had to leave. Maria has suffered through some emotional challenges where her Sister-in-law had a “normal” baby at the same time. She finds she is always comparing which was difficult at first but now that Maih has basically caught up and surpassed her in other ways, she is feeling better. She also wishes that her extended family would try to be more sensitive and supportive so that she doesn’t feel so isolated.

 **Support Services**

Besides the Children’s Hearing and Speech Centre of BC once a week, Maih and Maria are not in contact with any support groups or other families that have children with hearing loss. Maih and her mother had met another family who deal with hearing loss. The other family had two daughters who also wore hearing aids. She was very excited to meet and talk about the complexities of raising children that shared similar histories. The other family was not willing to talk about it with her. She felt that maybe she had over stepped her boundaries with them and decided it was best not to talk about these issues with other families. She seems keen on finding support from other sources but is not sure where to get it. Although Maih goes to the playground and integrates well with her peers, I think that Maih’s family would most likely benefit from social support groups.

**Reflection**

Maih seems like a cheerful, bubbly spirit. Her mother, Maria was very open to this process and incredibly helpful as she answered all of my questions in as much detail as she could. She gave great stories and examples where she could and was beautifully vulnerable and candid when talking about the challenges her and her family face.

I did not have the chance to meet the family in person unfortunately although we did have a lengthy interview on the phone. I think that I would have been able to get more detailed information if I was able to observe her in person. Even though the parents are a great source and generally the most informative to interview for anecdotal notes, there is always a bias as to how they perceive their child’s abilities.

Many families struggle with raising a child with any type of disability. There are many emotional challenges and hardships. I have seen these families feel helpless when they are trying to communicate with their children and they’re not getting any response. The weekly AVT visits give her the education and support they need. They take what they learn from Loretta and integrate it in to their daily lives. Maria has learned how to engage with her daughter through games, play and songs. When talking with Maria, she exclaims that she is happy with the therapy and with Maih’s auditory development progress.

The video we were given did not seem to have much material to create this report at first until we started to look closer and began to analyze it. Between the time of the video and the telephone interview, Maih had already begun to demonstrate new skills that illustrate her development using the FAPI. I believe that early intervention methods work and am glad that Maih was receiving AVT at 2.5 months and hearing aids at 3 months. I am gladly surprised to discover that technology has allowed early detection and that hearing devices can be fitted at such a young age. Maih is well on her way to being a contributing listening and speaking individual.