

Dylan: Entry COS Case Study Activity
Family's Story Transcript

Hi, my name is Terri. My husband, Donovan, and I are the parents of a beautiful little 26-month-old boy named Dylan. Dylan was born full-term and, with the exception of a couple of ear infections here and there, has been a healthy child since. Dylan's a very lovable child with me and husband, and I'd definitely say that we're a happy family, but like a lot of parents, we're running into some challenges with raising our son. Our biggest concerns right now are Dylan's temper tantrums and that he's not talking as much as we think he should be. We referred him to our local Infants and Toddlers program a few weeks ago after discussing our concerns with our pediatrician. We've been finding some information on the internet, but we wish we had another way to get more practical information about how we can help Dylan's development. We really have no idea what we should be doing since Dylan is our first child and we don't have a lot of friends or family in the area with children too.

We have a huge backyard and spend a lot of time playing out there. Dylan has lots of different ride-on toys that he would play with all day long if we let him! He's pretty much nonstop outside—running around and trying to climb on everything. He's especially interested in anything with wheels—like his dump truck—or any type of ball, and loves to draw and scribble on things with crayons and sidewalk chalk. He also likes watching birds and our dog while we're outside. A couple of months ago, Dylan started making “woof” sounds when he sees a dog, so we were really excited about that! It makes us hopeful that he's trying to talk more, but we'd still like to see him using more words to let us know when he wants something. Right now, he'll answer some questions by shaking his head “yes” or “no,” but he's really just pointing to a lot of things and gets frustrated when we don't understand what he wants.

One of Dylan's favorite places to go is the neighborhood pool. He's been swimming since he was a tiny baby, so he loves the water. We have fun splashing each other, and make it sort of like a tag game that we play together. He gets shy though when other children come up and try to play with us too. He's definitely more interested in playing with me or my husband alone. Another one of his favorite places is the playground at the end of our street. Dylan loves the swings and slide. There are two other children his age that live near us, so we see them at the playground pretty regularly. Dylan seems to like them, because he follows them around a lot, but I feel like he does more watching than really talking to or playing with them. In general, I'd say our outings are pretty difficult with Dylan, like when we go to the grocery store or out to eat. He's really sensitive to being around a lot of people that he doesn't know. He gets scared pretty easily when strangers talk to him. Life would definitely be a lot easier if we didn't have to worry about him crying so much when we go places!

Eating is probably Dylan's favorite thing to do! He seems to like just about anything. He's starting to feed himself with a spoon and fork, but he doesn't even want to try to drink out of a regular cup. He insists on everything being in a sippy. Toward the end of the day, when he starts to get tired, we tend to try to keep everything calm and as easy for him as possible to help him get settled down to go to sleep. He sleeps well once he's down, but it's hard to get him ready for bed—he's very squirmy when we try to get him changed. It's not unusual for it to take us 20 minutes just to get his pajamas on because he's screaming and flapping his arms. At other times of the day though, he's easy to get changed and even wants to do things on his own like pull his pants on and off. So, there are definitely some things that we'd like help with figuring out how to make easier for everyone!