

# Cecilia's Story

## The Beginning

Cecilia is 10 months old. She lives with her parents, Mary and Bob, a sister Rachael (8), brothers Matt and Alex (4 and 2). Cecilia was born full term with no complications. Since birth Cecilia has had multiple ear infections, but is otherwise healthy. Cecilia's parents have expressed concerns about why she is not babbling as much as her other siblings. They are also concerned that her motor skills seem to be slower than their other children.

At their last visit to the pediatrician Mary talked to the doctor about Cecilia's development. The doctor was not as concerned, and told Mary that all children develop differently. However, the doctor did express concern about the size of Cecilia's head and the rate of growth since her last visit. She referred the family a neurologist. The doctor also gave Mary information about the Illinois Early Intervention System.

## Intake

The doctor gave Cecilia's parents a flyer from the local CFC. Although the doctor indicated he was not worried about Cecilia's development Mary still called the CFC the next day. The person she talked to asked for some basic information and assured Mary that a service coordinator would call her back very soon.

Denise, the service coordinator, called Mary and scheduled an appointment to come to the family's home three days later. Denise briefly explained to Mary what would happen during the intake process. When Denise came to their home Mary and Bob gave her what medical information they had about Cecilia. Mary explained her concerns about Cecilia's development, adding that her doctor asked her to take Cecilia to a neurologist because of Cecilia's head size and its rate of growth

Denise explained how the EI system works and what would happen during the evaluation. She talked to Mary and Bob about their concerns and also completed an ASQ-SE for Cecilia. Bob asked how much the services would cost. Denise explained that if Cecilia is eligible the providers would try to bill the family's insurance and that based on their income they might have to pay a family fee.

Mary and Bob said they were concerned that Cecilia was quieter than their other children, that she was not sitting up yet and seemed to have a difficult time holding her head up when she was laying on her belly. They said they wanted to have Cecilia evaluated as soon as possible and asked who determines if Cecilia would get services.

## **The Evaluation**

Denise schedules evaluations for Cecilia with a developmental therapist, and a physical therapist. Bob hopes to be able to take off work to be at the home when the evaluations are done. Mary, who works part-time in the evenings, asks that the evaluators come in the morning. Cecilia is more alert at this time and it won't conflict with Mary's work schedule.

## **The First IFSP Meeting**

Denise contacts Bob and Mary after the evaluations have been completed. She schedules an IFSP meeting for the following Wednesday at their home. Bob plans to attend and they have asked Mary's grandmother to watch the children during the meeting.

The providers meet at Mary and Bob's home that Wednesday. Denise explains the agenda for the meeting. The group reviews the family's concerns and providers discuss their reports. Family input is key throughout the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting is set by state requirements and service coordinators. The agenda:

- ✓ Introductions
- ✓ Discussion of reports and family input
- ✓ Discussion of new information
- ✓ State required Child Outcome Measures
- ✓ Family Priorities
- ✓ Outcomes
- ✓ Strategies
- ✓ Service Plan

## **Beyond the IFSP**

After the meeting Denise sits with Mary and Bob and shows her lists of service providers. Cecilia's services will be provided in her home, and possibly at grandma's house.

Denise explains that the EI system wants to work with providers who are listed in Bob's insurance plan. They have checked with the insurance company and none of the PT's enrolled with the CFC are considered preferred providers for Bob's insurance. Based on their income Bob and Mary will pay a monthly fee of \$100 for Early Intervention services.

After Denise gets back to her office she contacts the selected providers and issues authorizations for them to provide service. She also sends them copies of the evaluation reports, the full IFSP, the insurance affidavit, copy of insurance card, insurance report and prescriptions for services if needed.

Denise issues authorizations for direct service, a six-month assessment, an annual assessment and IFSP development time for the providers who will work with Cecilia and her family

### **IFSP Review – 6 months**

Mary and Bob continue to question why Cecilia is not even babbling like other children. The DT encourages Mary to call her service coordinator and ask for a speech evaluation before the six-month meeting. Otherwise Cecilia does seem to be making progress.

Based on the SLP's evaluation, the IFSP is modified to include speech therapy. The team determines that Cecilia will receive speech services every other week for 60 minutes. There is also discussion at the meeting about Cecilia's ability to stand. The team recommends that Cecilia could benefit from an orthotic to support her ankles. The physical therapist (who is also an EI evaluator) will do an evaluation for Assistive Technology

At the end of the six-month meeting Denise explains to Bob and Mary that another IFSP meeting will be held at the end of the IFSP year. She assures Mary that the therapists will conduct new assessments and that re-determining eligibility is part of that process.

### **Transition**

Cecilia is approaching 2 years 6 months of age. She has been receiving speech, physical therapy, and developmental therapy.

At that six-month meeting Denise talks to Mary and Bob about the transition process. They are very concerned about what type of program Cecilia will be involved in once she turns 3. The service coordinator and providers support Cecilia and her family through the transition process