

SANDY

You are 27 years old and you stay home with your son, **Brandon**. Your husband, **Charlie**, works in information technology (IT). Your parents and two sisters, with their families, live fairly nearby. Charlie doesn't like one of these sisters. His parents and one brother also live nearby.

Brandon, who is now 27 months old, was born prematurely and has shown delays in all areas. Right now, he uses single words and a few two-word combinations, he walks and runs, he is in diapers and a crib, and he is very social (says hi to everyone he sees in the grocery store).

You are concerned about his clumsiness: He has difficulty

- climbing ladders to swings,
- sitting down in the right place on a swing,
- getting on and off his riding-toy horse,
- running without falling over objects on the ground (e.g., toys lying around in the yard),
- changing surfaces (e.g., trips when goes from the driveway to the grass), and
- going down stairs, even when his hand is held, if he gets distracted.

At diaper change, his legs seem no more floppy or stiff than other little kids you've known, and you've known plenty through nannying and your sisters' children. Brandon can be very precise in picking things up and in pointing to pictures in a book, but he still spills a lot with spoon feeding (i.e., turns the spoon over on the way to the mouth) and he can't stab food with a fork and take it to his mouth. He doesn't spend long with toys or watching TV and likes to be with you, which makes dinner preparation time difficult.

Charlie tries to distract him, by calling from the living room, "Come here, son, and leave your mother alone," but he doesn't actually rise to get Brandon. If he is with Brandon, he doesn't know how to keep him busy and playing happily. When Charlie first comes home, he tries to unwind by checking things on his phone rather than playing with Brandon or talking to you. After dinner, though, Charlie will clean up, take charge of bath time, and do the bedtime ritual. The two of you share these responsibilities.

Make up the other details to flesh out this story. You will need to talk about daily life. You wonder whether you are doing everything you can for Brandon; your bad back (two surgeries so far) and weight make you less active than you'd like. You wish your relationship with Charlie were better and that he enjoyed being Brandon's father more.