

Avery was diagnosed as having Down syndrome shortly after her birth. She received early intervention services as an infant and toddler. She experienced no serious physical complications as a result of having Down syndrome, however, she had frequent ear infections and had tubes placed in her ears as a toddler.

Just before turning three years old, a meeting was held to develop her initial IEP. The team discussed that Avery has a significant developmental delay in all areas with the most pronounced delays in receptive and expressive communication. Through the SLP working with her in early intervention, the team was informed that a total communication approach was used for Avery, working with spoken words, manual signs, and gestures to communicate. Avery rarely uses words or signs to communicate spontaneously, and she is difficult to understand. With models and prompts, she can say or sign approximations of 25 words. Her parents want Avery to improve comprehension and also make herself understood.

Avery shows an awareness and interest in other children, as reported by her parents. She mostly plays alone, and less often she will engage in parallel play when in a group setting. Currently, she seems to prefer adult attention rather than that of her peers. Avery loves to look at books and responds well to music and puppets. She has a great interest in Disney characters, especially the princesses. Avery's parents want her to join in play with other children and participate in the preschool classroom routines.

Though she can walk, Avery sometimes prefers to crawl around the floor. Her mom describes her as a "fearless climber" yet she does not seem aware of the possible dangers of climbing and may let go when climbing structures. She has problems with balance and cannot yet throw or catch a ball. Her parents want her to increase her mobility and use preschool classroom materials such as crayons, pencils, paints, and scissors.

Avery does not yet sign or say when she needs to use the toilet. She does not dress herself or wash her hands independently. When she does not want to do something or does not understand what has been asked of her, Avery will "go limp." Some of her providers in early intervention have described her as "very stubborn" and sometimes non-compliant. She cannot always follow simple directions. Her parents want Avery to take care of her toileting needs, dressing, and hand-washing independently.