

Abby White
Case Study
Child Development 2 p.m. M/W/F
May 9, 2007

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INTRODUCTION

Will is the subject of a Case Study being done for a Child Development class. He is three and a half years of age and lives with both of his parents and a younger sister. His family resides in Elwood, Indiana where they live in a house that they have lived in all of his life. His mother is a high school teacher, as is his father. They have been married for seven years and have lived in the house for four years. Will has one large dog that is mostly an outside dog. His sister Allison is just over a year old. Will likes to play with trains, color, and play outside. Will does not like to play in the water, be told what to do, or be told that he is going to have his picture taken.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

When Will's mother was pregnant for him she did not gain much weight because of doctor's orders. She said that she had to work hard at this and worked out a lot during the pregnancy. "Will was born after 38 ½ weeks of pregnancy and was six pounds and ten ounces" (Abernathy 2007). Will's mother's labor was induced, but she still had Will through vaginal labor. Once born, Will was able to roll at five months and was able to roll both ways. At five months he also started to get his teeth and by one year had all of his teeth except his molars. At six months he was able to sit up and was also able to pick up a Cheerio. At six months, Will was able to say Dada, but did not know what the word meant (Gober). By eight months he was able to say Momma and Dada and knew that it meant his parents. Will was able to crawl at nine months and walk at 13 months.

Will is now at age three, in the 95 percentile with height and 87 percentile weight. He is able to count to 10-15 and is able to tell you how many of something he has in front of him. He is able to say most of his ABC's and recognizes some of the letters. He is able to spell out his name, but does not know what the letters really mean. He just knows that if you tell him to spell his name, to say W I L L. Will does not like to hear stories over and over again, but does like to retell stories that he has either seen in real life or read. Will is not shy with others. He loves to talk and can do it pretty clearly. Will remembers just about everything, he will make sure to tell you story of once when his father cut open his hand and he saw it. He can tell you everything that happened that day. Will is able to color, not inside of the lines, but tries hard at it. He knows all of his colors and will tell them to you. Will knows all of his body parts and will be glad to tell you about them and show them to any one who asks. He is very much interested with his male anatomy. He is able to open doors. Will is also able to run, jump, throw and catch a ball. Will is not a picky eater and is pretty open to try new foods. Will sleeps about 10 hours a night and takes about a one and half to a two hour nap every day. He sleeps well and usually does not argue with his parents when it is time to go to bed.

COGNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Will on the cognitive level seems to be doing pretty well (E. Robbins). He is able to hold a pencil or crayon and can draw shapes and a lot of designs. He can also tell you what these designs are. He drew a heart and colored it red and knew that it was a heart.

Even though Will is three he is still under the impression that he knows everything. It does not matter who he is talking to, he knows more than they do. It could even be something as simple as someone telling him to blow his nose because it is runny. He still will sit there and tell the person that his nose is not runny. Will was given the

glass experiment from the book to see if he could tell the difference in the three different glasses. He was not able understand that even though the other glass was larger, there was still the same amount of liquid in it. Even after it had been explained to him multiple times, he still did not understand and always said that the grown up was wrong.

According to Will's parent's, Will's language has become much more sophisticated within just the last year. He is able to say many more words then he was able to in the past. They said that they thought that it has happened in the last five months the most. He is now able to say whole sentences with many words, unlike the best when it was just two or three words put together that did not make 100% sense all of the time.

Will does not attend a day care or a preschool yet. At this point in time he is in a home with his little sister with an older lady who watches the both of them. Because of when his birthday is, he was not able to go to preschool until next year. This is probably a positive thing because he is now probably going to be way above the rest of the children in his class. Once he is around the children, his vocabulary should sore even higher then what it is now. This should defiantly be a positive thing for him and his parents.

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Will seems to be very well rounded on the emotional development level. He has a very big sense of humor. He is all about making other people laugh and loves to laugh himself. He is really into making funny faces so that he can get people to laugh at him.

Will seems to have a pretty good self-confidence level for most of the time. He is a little shy around people when he first meets them, but after some time he warms up to them really fast and never stops talking to the new people. Will has to be the center of attention ever since his sister was born. He some times starts to act up when he is not the center of attention, but his parents are working on this. Since he is the oldest child, the

acting up is probably because he has always been the center of attention up until the last nine months (Feldman). I am not so sure that this is a self-confidence problem.

Will handles different situations pretty well. He is now able to show compassion or so it seems. If he sees his sister is crying he will ask why or if another child cries he asks why. One time his sister was sitting in her chair crying (mostly because she was not getting her way) and he was trying to talk to her to make her stop. It was really neat to see this because I thought he was too young to do this. He plays well with others and when people take his things he does not throw too much of a fit over it. He is a pretty good child and handles most situations well.

REFLECTION

Will, a three and a half year old child was who I studied for 20 hours over three visits. I have known Will since he was born and I found this class to be very interesting because everything that I have seen with Will has been right with the text book.

One of my visits I stayed all night with him and put him to bed. He had a night time ritual just like the book said he would. We had to go through all of these steps before he would go to bed. First we had to put his baby sister Allison to bed, and then he had to go to the bathroom and brush his teeth. He would then pray with his parents. Then he had to be tucked into bed he would either have a book read to him or he would read a book to his parents. (The book that he would read is one that he has always had read to him and he mostly has it memorized.)

He was also really good at telling stories. I would go pick him up at his baby sitters and the whole way to his house he would tell me stories. I am not sure if they were

all true, because some of them were pretty far out there. But this is also something that the textbook said that he would do.

I think that this class was awesome and was right on to what children are like. I really liked that I got to go and watch a child. Like I said above I have known Will since he was born, but I have never actually connected the material I have learned to him. I know can watch a child and be like “oh they are doing this because they are in a certain stage of their lives”. I found that to be very educational and awesome!



Will playing soccer with a basketball.



Will scoring a goal



Will's little sister on the trampoline, he is on there with her but you can not see him.

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