

Module 1: Understanding Chronic Conditions

Handout F-2: Toddler

Deatrice

Deatrice is 2½ and always on the go! She and her four- and five-year-old brothers live with Granny and Grandpop. At Head Start, Deatrice slows down just long enough to flash her big smile before she races off to do her favorite things: play with blocks, run, climb, and dance.

Deatrice doesn't like having to stop playing to take her medicine. And it tastes awful. Sometimes Deatrice runs away when they try to give her the medicine and they have to chase her. They say she has to take her medicine every day so she doesn't have seizures and fall down and hurt her head again. Last week the ambulance came to Head Start to take Deatrice to the emergency room and she had to get stitches. Deatrice's brothers were also at Head Start and saw the ambulance take her away. Grandpop was really worried about Deatrice and Granny was really worried about Grandpop. Grandpop says he was always so healthy that he hardly ever had to go to the doctor. But he's been going to the doctor a lot since his heart attack and since they've had Deatrice and her brothers.

1. What is **Deatrice** doing in her development as a toddler? How might Deatrice understand her chronic condition? What concerns, fears, and questions might she have?
2. What are **Granny and Grandpop** doing in their development as senior citizens and as Deatrice's and her brothers' caregivers? How might Deatrice's chronic condition affect Granny's and Grandpop's development? What concerns, fears, and questions might they have?
3. What are **Deatrice's brothers** doing in their development as preschoolers? How might Deatrice's chronic condition affect her brothers' development? What concerns, fears, and questions might they have?
4. How can **Head Start** help Deatrice, her brothers, Granny, and Grandpop in their development?