

Module 1: Understanding Childhood Injuries

Handout A-2: A Toddler's Day—Henry

I'm Henry and I'm two-and-a-half. I live with my mom, dad, grandma, and four-year-old sister. We're going to have another baby soon so I got a big-boy bed. I wake up and go into Mom and Dad's room. Mom's already at work. Dad's asleep because he works at night. I see some neat things on the bedside table—Mom's vitamin pills and Dad's cigarettes. I know there's a gun in the drawer to protect us from bad guys. Sometimes I like to pretend I'm a superhero. I say, "Stick 'em up!" Dad rolls over and says, "Hey there buster. Grandma's up, go tell her good morning."

I go into the kitchen, but no one's in here. The steam kettle is whistling on the stove—maybe I can help—I could take it off. Grandma comes in. "Henry, you're up!" she says. "You want some nice hot oatmeal?" I say yes, so she makes me a bowl and sets it on the table. I climb onto the chair to eat it. My sister comes in and she eats too.

Grandma says, "Henry, time to go potty." I go into the bathroom, but I don't get there soon enough and it goes on the floor. "Oh, oh..." Dad gets really mad and sometimes he hurts me when I mess up. Grandma says, "Henry, bring me your clothes on your dresser." I go up to my room, climb up on the chair, and pull down my pants and shirt. Grandma helps me get dressed.

Grandma walks me and my sister to Head Start. She says there are some places that we have to be careful of, like where the bad guys hang out. Sometimes we run across the middle of the street instead of at the corner.

When we get to Head Start, my teacher says, "Henry, come on in! There's some snack if you want it." I'm not hungry yet so I go over to play on the new indoor climbing structure. Another kid pushes me over so he can go down the slide first. So I push him back. Circle time is too long. I race out the door when it's time to play outside. I'm playing in the sandbox, building a castle. I really need the shovel that girl is using, so I grab it from her. She throws sand at me. When we go in to wash our hands, I push her back. At lunchtime, I'm eating as fast as I can so I can play some more. While I'm finishing my carrots, I jump up and run to the play area.

Grandma's here to pick me up. We go into my sister's classroom to pick her up. When Grandma is talking with my sister's teacher, I wander over to the play area. There are some neat little toys there—I pop a marble into my mouth pretending it's a vitamin.

When we get home, Mom's making dinner. She turns on the TV for me. I love to watch the superhero shows. Sometimes when I hear gun shots in our neighborhood, I pretend to shoot the bad guys to protect my family. Today I get to eat dinner in front of the TV and I'm always jumping up and shouting. I fall asleep in front of the TV.