

Handout 15: Lara's Point of View

Lara is a young mother who lives with her grandmother and her young daughter Sasha. Sasha, who is in Head Start, loves to draw and tell stories. However, she has a speech delay and a limited spoken vocabulary. As a result, it can take a long time for her stories to come out. She is receiving therapy at Head Start which seems to be helping with both speech and language.

Lara has noticed that Sasha often gets frustrated when she talks. Lara and her grandmother love to listen to Sasha and they are both very patient with her. However, sometimes Sasha will lash out in anger when she is having a hard time making herself understood.

Lara also has noticed that, even though there are a lot of children in the building where they live, Sasha does not seem to have many friends. And even though Sasha seems to like Head Start, she doesn't talk about the friends she has made there. Lara wonders whether the children at school like her or, for that matter, whether the teacher likes her.

Lara is concerned about sending Sasha to kindergarten next year. Sasha does not adjust easily to new situations, and it took her a long time to feel comfortable at Head Start. Lara is bothered by the prospect of having to take Sasha out of a situation that seems to be working for her. For herself as a parent, Lara does not look forward to starting all over with a new school, new teachers, and new procedures.

Lara has just started an all-day training program. She's nervous about it, because school has always been very stressful for her. She doesn't read well so she is not sure she will be able to keep up. She's determined to try, though, even though she knows she will have to study very hard.

Lara missed the first round of parent-teacher conferences because Head Start was new to her and she was nervous about being alone with the teacher. She didn't have a phone at the time, and she never returned the conference sign-up form. Another notice about parent-teacher conferences just came home in Sasha's backpack, and Lara thinks she would like to do it this time.

Discuss these questions from Lara's point of view:

1. What do you want Sasha's teacher to know?
 2. What do you want to learn from Sasha's teacher?
 3. What conference arrangements would best suit you (time, place, involvement of others, arrangements for child care, transportation, etc.)?
 4. What would be a good way to make those arrangements?
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