

## **Learning Task #1**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The background information was collected from two interviews, one with Mary Doe (Jane's mother) and one with Jane Doe herself, supplemented by additional information obtained from the Background Information Questionnaire that Mary completed before the interview. The purpose of the interviews is to gather information about Jane's difficulties with communication, language, and reading, as well as her educational, social, and behavioural history.

#### **Developmental and Medical History**

Eight-year-old Jane Doe is a healthy child who has not experienced any severe medical issues, operations, or allergies. She was born via a planned C-section and weighed 6.1 lbs. Jane was diagnosed with mild hearing loss in both ears at age 3, which has impacted her language development. However, she has been making progress with the assistance of her paternal grandmother, who is a trained Orton-Gillingham tutor.

Jane's sleep habits have been a concern in the past, but the situation has improved with a regular sleep routine and the use of melatonin. Her father, David, has a history of dyslexia, and her great-uncle on her mother's side has an Intellectual Disability and resides in an assisted living facility.

Jane achieved developmental milestones such as walking by 14 months without any reported difficulties. Toilet training was completed successfully by 2.5 years, for days, and by 3.5 years for nights. Jane has no reported difficulties with motor skills, eating, or sleeping, except for occasional problems falling asleep and staying asleep.

Jane has mild conductive hearing loss and wears glasses for vision correction. She has not experienced any seizures or ear infections and is currently not taking any medication. Her last hearing and eye exams were conducted in November 2022 and January 2023, respectively. Mary (Jane's mom) reports no significant medical issues in the family's medical history.

#### **Family and Relationship History**

Jane lives at home with her biological mother, Mary, 46; her biological father, David, 43 and her biological sister, 17 years old. Jane has not experienced a parental separation, divorce or death of a loved one during her lifetime. Jane presents as outgoing and energetic, as described by both her mother and herself. She also gets along well with her peers. Jane engages in plenty of activities with the family, such as movies, meals, conversations, visits with relatives, games, sports, trips and watching television. Jane visits her grandparents weekly. When Mary is asked what she enjoys most about her daughter, she says that Jane is funny, a ball of energy, adventurous, outgoing, marches to her own tune and is not a follower.

According to Mary, a challenge with parenting Jane is her strong will to have her own way; her eating habits are also an issue, hoping Jane eats better. When asked what she wishes for her child's future, Mary stated that she wants Jane to be a happy, healthy, productive and a connected adult. At home, Jane benefits from the love and care of her family and friends. She describes her family as warm and nurturing and her dog Charlie as a source of joy. When facing problems, Jane often turns to her mother for help, but she also has a close relationship with her father.

Despite the demands of Mary's job, which she does from home, and her father's shift schedule, Jane reports a harmonious home life. Although there have been occasional conflicts with her sister and father,

they have not caused any significant distress. Jane's parents use consequences such as taking away privileges to address misbehaviour. She is also encouraged to take on household responsibilities, contributing to chores such as feeding and walking the dog and engaging in various after-school activities such as gymnastics, dance, biking, and arts and crafts.

### **Social and Behavioral History**

Mary describes her daughter as an outgoing and energetic individual with many friends and positive relationships with her peers, and Jane confirms it. Although Jane enjoys spending time with her close friends Adrianna, McKenna, and Leah, she mentions occasional arguments over small things. However, these disputes are infrequent and quickly resolved.

Regarding school functioning, Jane has a positive attitude towards education, with Art and Gym being her favourite subjects. Her teacher, Mrs. "N," is considered warm and supportive by both Jane and her mother. Jane begins her day with a soft start, playing and gathering with classmates and eventually moving to the rainbow table before the start of classes. Despite some nervousness about Science, Jane actively participates in the subject and enjoys the fun activities conducted in class. However, writing tasks are complex for Jane, and her mother reports that she is working with her grandmother and father at home to improve.

Concerning Jane's emotional and behavioural functioning, Mary recounts that Jane has trouble paying attention and staying focused on one task. Jane is also noted to become frustrated quickly and may become upset with abrupt changes in her routine. However, Jane does not display any signs of anxiety or depression, and her mother feels that Jane has a positive self-concept. Mary expressed concern about Jane's impulsivity and tendency to act without considering potential dangers, which may impact her safety.

At home, Jane has a strong support system in her family and friends. She describes her family as warm and nurturing, with her dog, Charlie, being a source of joy. Jane turns to her mother when she has problems and has a close relationship with her father. Despite Mary's job working from home and her father's shift schedule, Jane reported having a harmonious home life. Although there have been occasional conflicts with her sister and father, they have not caused significant distress. The parents use consequences such as taking away privileges to address misbehaviour, and Jane is a responsible member of the household, contributing to chores such as feeding and walking the dog and engaging in after-school activities such as gymnastics, dance, biking, and arts and crafts.

### **Educational History**

Jane is currently a third-grade student at Central Elementary in Langley, BC. Mary reported that Jane struggles with reading and understanding written instructions, particularly in subjects like Math and Science that require her to comprehend word problems. Jane enjoys hands-on activities and is persistent with tasks but can become bored easily. Jane has difficulties with spelling and writing tasks, which they have been working on at home.

Despite having a positive relationship with her teacher, Jane is only somewhat connected to a few classmates as she could only name a few people at school that are important to her besides her teacher. Mary expressed concerns over Jane's difficulty communicating with others and putting words together correctly, which affects her ability to read and understand written instructions. As a result, Mary has taken the initiative to seek private Speech and Language therapy for her daughter, as she feels she is not receiving enough support at school. Her mother feels that she would do better in school with more educational support.