

Parent - Background Questionnaire - Notes

Jane Doe was born on October 15th, 2014, and is eight years old, attending Grade 3. Jane's mother, Mary, completed a Background Questionnaire prior to the intake meeting, and the following are the questions she completed and the associated content.

Jane's strengths or assets

Jane is outgoing, energetic, friendly, loving and determined. Briefly described, Jane's current difficulties are communication-related, Jane's inability to put together language. She screams when she does not get her way, she does not always understand what is being said when spoken to, has partial hearing loss, unaided and can be stubborn; Mary's concern about Jane since her birth, ever since she remembers Jane has been this way.

Family Information

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.

Family Relations

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. Mary hopes that Jane will complete a postgraduate degree but wishes her happiness with anything she chooses to do. Mary stated that she and her husband discipline Jane by way of timeouts, cold showers by dad, removal of technology, or removal of special activities.

Developmental History

Jane was not adopted, and Mary's pregnancy with Jane was planned. Mary was 37 when she became pregnant, and her father was 35. Jane was Mary's second pregnancy and was without complications. Mary is a non-smoker, and she did not consume any substances, such as drugs or alcohol, either while she was pregnant, including prescription drugs. Mary received prenatal care when she got pregnant, and the delivery was not induced. Jane was born through a C-section, at

6.1 lbs and not prematurely; no neonatal care was needed. As an infant, Jane was not a quiet baby, did like to be held, was alert, and was not easy to soothe. Mary does not remember when Jane turned over, sat alone, crawled, or walked up and down the stairs; she does not think Jane had any issues with any of these milestones. Mary also could not remember when Jane showed interest or attraction to sound, when she spoke her first words, spoke in sentences or showed fear of strangers. Mary does remember, however, that Jane was walking by about 14 months of age. Mary also remembers that Jane was toilet trained for two and a half years old for days and three and a half years old for nights. There were no bed-soiling or bed-wetting issues for Jane, mom recalls. Jane also had no difficulty walking, feeding, or weight issues and was not a colic child. However, Mary does state that Jane has difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep, and her speech is sometimes unclear. Jane otherwise has no issues with eating, riding a bike, learning to skip and learning to throw/catch. During Jane's first four years, her mother recalls no issues with eating, motor skills, sleeping too much, temper tantrums, sleeping too little, failing to thrive, separation from parents or excessive crying. Mom states that Jane has no other medical history of illnesses either. When asked if Jane has any known disabilities, Mary stated she has mild conductive hearing loss. Jane is not currently on medication and has not experienced any seizures or ear infections. Her last hearing exam was on the month of November of 2022. She has no other vision problems but does wear glasses. Her last eye exam was on January 2023.

Family Medical History

Jane's family medical history revealed that her father, David, had academic difficulties due to Dyslexia, but no other family problems were noted on the Background Questionnaire.

Social, Behavioral and Other

When asked whether Jane has any problems playing with other children, her mother, Mary, states that her daughter can have challenges when interacting with other children, which she states may be due to communication and maturity. However, Jane has no problems making friends; she is not one to play alone and does not fight with her classmates. She plays with other children in her neighbourhood and has been observed taking both a leader and a follower role. When it comes to activities that her child enjoys, Mary stated that Jane seems to enjoy dance, gymnastics, swimming, and arts and crafts, and there has been no decline in these activities for Jane. The mother states that Jane seems to dislike Math in particular. Jane goes to bed at 9 pm on weekdays and between 9 pm and 10 pm on weekends. She mostly gets up at 7:05 am on weekdays and at about 8 or 9 am on weekends. Jane is only eight years old, and none of her friends engage in substance use of any kind, and none of them have been in trouble with the law.

Parent Interview - Notes

Jane Doe was born on October 15th, 2014, and is eight years old, attending Grade 3 at Central Elementary in Langley, BC. Jane's mother, Mary Doe, is the parent who completed the background questionnaire and conducted the parent interview over Zoom regarding her concerns about her daughter's (Jane's) difficulties with communication, putting language together and reading struggles that have her falling behind in school.

Concerns

Mary is concerned that Jane has difficulty communicating with people and does not put her words together properly; Jane does not use all of her sounds, which also hurts her reading, which has been an ongoing issue for Jane. She wants to be understood, so she does not have issues or feel left out. In the past, Mary was concerned with Jane hitting when frustrated, but this has improved; Jane sometimes screams out of frustration and repeats herself a lot. Mary privately located a Speech and language therapist because Jane receives very little support at school. Mary states that they recently found out she was knocked off the waiting list for an assessment at school and was frustrated. When asked what she would like for her daughter, Mary said she wants Jane to be happy and prosperous, but mostly happy. Regarding strengths, Mary states that Jane is determined, strong-willed, outgoing, and energetic.

School Functioning

When asked how the child is getting along, Jane said that she has some trouble understanding and issues with reading, but otherwise, she is doing well. Mary believes that her daughter Jane is best at art and gym at school and believes her daughter does not like science but that Math is probably there as well, in that both subjects require her to read and understand instructions. Word problems are challenging for Jane. Mary states that her daughter, Jane, can understand some things relatively quickly, yet others not so much and that her daughter is generally better with hands-on activities. When asked whether Jane persists with tasks, Mary stated that Jane could persist with tasks most of the time, and when asked to elaborate, she stated that Jane would do so unless she gets bored, which is when she moves on to something else. Regarding schoolwork, Mary stated that Jane does not have much homework, being in grade 3; however, the teacher reports from time to time that Jane is having issues with spelling at school, so she has been practicing by leaving messages for dad on the dry-erase board, and dad would respond by writing back to her, in a bid to get her to do some writing at home. Mom states that her daughter, Jane, likes her teacher but is only somewhat connected to a few others at the school. Jane's mom, Mary, also states that she is happy with her daughter's achievement at school and that if she got some Speech and Language services at school, she would be doing better. However, now they have to play catch-up by hiring a private Speech and Language Therapist to work with

her daughter. Mary, Jane's mom, states that learning-wise, Jane needed to catch on to reading quickly, so Jane's Grandma from the father's side (David's), who used to tutor before, is doing Orton Gillingham with her and has made a positive difference. The mother is frustrated that little was done to address Jane's difficulties at school and that it was frustrating to hear that she got bumped off the waiting list for assessment and that very little help was offered. However, Jane has not had to repeat a grade, but she has challenges with communication and reading. When Mary was asked what she would like to see happen, she stated that she would like Jane to receive more help with her speech and that they monitor her progress more closely.

Behavioural and Emotional Problems

When asked whether her daughter, Jane, has trouble paying attention, Mary replied that sometimes she does have this problem and can sometimes have trouble staying with one activity. Regarding self-control, Mary states that her daughter, Jane, does some self-talk that helps, but that is about it. When asked how well Jane follows directions, her mother, Mary, states that Jane will do well with following directions if she understands, but sometimes she does not hear or she misses steps.

Mary recalls that Jane also gets frustrated easily, especially if she has to talk or repeat herself. Mary, the mother, also stated that Jane gets upset by abrupt changes when she does not understand what is happening, even though Mary does not see Jane's responses as unpredictable. According to her mother, Mary, Jane seems to have no issues with warming up to people, enjoys it, and is also a busybody who likes to keep active and moving. Mary does have some concerns about Jane's impulsivity, in that she can be unaware of the danger and may do what pops into her head. According to her mom, Jane's self-concept is A-OK, stating that her daughter thinks she is awesome. When Jane is facing a complex problem, Mary continues, can go quiet or remove herself from the situation. According to her mom, Jane is not very anxious and does not display any depressed mood symptoms or have any other behavioural or emotional problems. Mary, however, wants to address her daughter's ability to communicate.

Social Functioning

According to Mary, the mother, Jane, has many close friends, and they are mostly good kids. Jane seems to get along fine with other children, and when she does not like what they are doing, she is just as happy to continue doing something independently. Mary says that her daughter has playdates at home and goes to other children's houses to play. When problems with other children arise, they are around Jane's willingness to do her own thing, and also, the teasing around her speech has been an issue in the past.

Medical, Developmental and Family History

Mary reports that Jane receives no medication, has not had any severe illness, accident operations or similar problems, has no allergies, and that she, as a mom, does not have any concerns about Jane in this area. Perhaps Jane could be eating better, says mom, as she does not eat a lot, and often it is on the go and not at the table; Jane's sleep is also a concern for Mary, stating that Jane has issues falling asleep and staying asleep. When asked to elaborate, Mary stated that Jane had taken some melatonin for sleep, which has helped a little, and they have been working on a regular sleep routine, improving matters. Mary recalls no issues with childbirth, confirming that she was under no stress, medication or substances during pregnancy. When asked to state any problems Jane has, Mary said that Jane's hearing is an issue, that it took Jane time to learn how to speak, and that she was diagnosed with mild hearing loss in both ears. Otherwise, Jane had no issues with other milestones related to walking, toilet training, motor control or motor coordination. For speaking and writing issues that Jane faces, Mary (mom) states that Jane is slow but that she is catching up thanks to Grandma Doe, who helps Jane with reading using the Orton Gillingham approach. When asked whether anyone among relatives has any similar problems, mary said that jane's dad, David has dyslexia. Out of relatives on the mother's side, Jane's great-uncle (Mary's uncle) has an Intellectual Disability and lives in an assisted living facility.

Family Relations and Home situation

When asked about the family situation, Mary stated that their family is busy, with the husband (Jane's dad) having a shift schedule, whereas Mary herself has been working out of the home more since COVID. Mary stated that Jane does not always get along with her sister or her dad and that her dad can sometimes be hard on Jane. One significant recent change in Jane's life is that her half-sister began living with them full-time for over a year. Nothing very upsetting has happened to Jane, according to Mary. When asked about discipline in the household, Mary stated that Jane would lose privileges due to not listening, such as having toys and electronics taken away. When Jane does something special, Mary says they usually talk about it and celebrate it. Regarding chores, the mother, Mary, explained that Jane could help feed and walk the dog. Mary explains her daughter Jane's activities as varied, depending on the day of the week, such as gymnastics, dance and biking on weekends.

Child's interests and Hobbies

In her spare time, Jane engages in arts and crafts and looks forward to getting outside to play every day if she can. She likes all the activities she engages in and has done gymnastics and dance, as well as skiing and skating, but gymnastics is her favourite, as she has just learned how to do cartwheels.

Concluding Questions

Jane's overall strengths, according to her mother Mary, are Jane's determination and how she marches to her own drum, yet that can also be a weakness for Jane as she can be just as determined to get her way, be stubborn and inflexible. Regarding Mary's wishes from this assessment, she is looking for ways to help her daughter, Jane, communicate well and succeed.

Child Interview - Notes

Jane Doe was born on October 15th, 2014, and is eight years old, attending Grade 3 at Central Elementary in Langley, BC. Jane's mother, Mary Doe, is the parent who completed the background questionnaire and conducted the parent interview over Zoom. Then we had Jane complete hers as well, where we asked her questions about her perspective of some of the struggles that her mom thinks she is having, as well as she likes, dislikes, how she feels about home, school, her friends and her hobbies.

Activities and Interests

When asked what she would like to do for fun when not in school, Jane said she likes her tablet, the Mario Kart game, painting and crafts. For sports, Jane said she loves gymnastics and dance. Jane likes Mario Kart the best and does not watch so much TV, but sometimes she watches movies and loves Disney movies, such as Descendants. When asked if she plays many video games, Jane says she is allowed to play Mario Kart for one hour. Jane also likes music, and her favourites are Disney songs.

School and Homework

Jane said she does not do homework (being an 8-year-old), and she likes Art the most at school and Science not so much. For other activities at school, Jane said she plays different things, such as basketball and tag, and sometimes she plays with friends. When asked about her teacher, Jane said, "Mrs 'N' is really nice." Jane did not come up with anyone in particular when asked if there was anyone in school who was particularly important to her. When asked what she worries about, Jane said, "I do not know; I worry about myself." Jane said she sometimes gets nervous about Science and explained how they are learning about Ecosystems but that sometimes they do fun stuff. When asked what her day is like, she explained that they have a soft start, play, and gather at the rainbow table. When asked whether she gets in trouble at school, Jane explained that she sometimes does. When asked what kind of trouble, she explained that she mingles with the other grade when the intermediate and lower grades play outside, sometimes grabbing people and chasing, but less so this year. When asked if she would change anything at school what would it be, Jane responded that she would not change anything at all. When asked about homework and if she does anything at home that is similar to school work, Jane said that sometimes I do words that match at home, and dad explained that they do this when the teacher says that she is not spelling the words correctly. When asked whether anyone helps with homework or schoolwork and what that looks like, Jane said that Colton sometimes helps her (a peer) and nobody else, except for Mrs. "L" sometimes. When asked whether she has trouble following the teacher, Jane's response was "sometimes" and explained a scenario when she had to copy a picture and how she could not understand what she was supposed to do. When asked whether she gets easily distracted, Jane stated that sometimes she does get distracted. When the

question was rephrased, asking when it is more challenging for her to pay attention, Jane explained that it does happen sometimes and that sometimes she is not listening to the teacher and talking to her friends instead. Jane has no problem sitting still for a long time, and when asked whether she takes many breaks, she said they do not take any breaks. Jane stated that sometimes she has difficulty keeping up with writing tasks. Jane does not think she has an issue remembering things.

Friendships

When asked if she has any friends and how many, Jane stated she has more than twenty. When asked how many close friends, she listed Sophie and Alanna and how she plays hide and seek with them and then spontaneously began telling a story in the context of what she did with her friends at school. When asked about playdates, Jane explains she never played at Sophie's but was once at Alanna's, and sometimes her friends come to her house to play. Jane stated she is happy with her friends and that her friends treat her well, except for Alanna, who can sometimes be not so nice to her. When asked who is her best friend, Jane mentioned Adrianna, McKenna and Leah. Jane stated that she gets along with her classmates. When asked about problems getting along with other kids, Jane does not understand. When it was rephrased, asking when she has problems with other kids, what happens, Jane started telling a story about how she started to read a book because she got lonely, then told Lucy and proceeded to tell the story. When asked whether she gets into fights with other kids, Jane did not respond, and when rephrased, asking what she does when she argues with other kids, Jane gave an example of how she argues when someone gets extra cupcakes at school and argues about who gets the first one. When asked whether this happens with many kids or just a few, Jenna explained that they could not start fights because there are lunch monitors, and sometimes they yell because they are loud or noisy.

Home situation and family relations

When asked whom she lives with at home, Jane said mom, dad, sister Nat the hamster, Riley the fish and Charlie, the dog. Jane explained that dad is a mechanic, and mom is a legal assistant. When asked what home is like, Jane said it is fun, but sometimes she is not allowed to do some fun stuff. Jane stated that she has her own bedroom, and as for the chores, she had to feed Charlie, the dog. When asked if she got any allowance, Jane did not know what an allowance was. Regarding rules at home she needs to follow, Jane listed several, such as no jumping on the couch or the bed, no picking the nose, washing hands before and after dinner and before and after using the washroom. When she does not listen, Jane said her dad gives her a smack on her behind (giggling), and she is sent to her room, whereas mom will take her toys away. When asked if she gets along with the people at home, she said she sometimes does not get along with her dad because he puts her on timeout and smacks her bum (laughing). When having a problem, Jane usually talks to mom, dad and Charlie, the dog. She describes her family as nice, kind and lovely and her dog as happy too.

Self-awareness and feelings

When asked for three wishes, Jane said she would love a pet unicorn, marry all her crushes and have ice cream for dinner because it tastes so yummy. When she grows up, Jane says she wants to be a vet. When asked if she could name anything she would like to change, Jane answered, "my socks," laughing and giggling. When rephrased, she said she would love to have eyebrows like mom (continuing to giggle). When asked if she feels sad sometimes and what she does when it happens, Jane answered that she takes a deep breath and likes to be alone. When asked what makes her angry, Jane spoke about how her dad sometimes does not listen, and she does not get what she wants. When asked what she is afraid of and what she does about it, Jane answered spiders and the dark without elaborating. When asked what she worries about, Jane replied that she worries about nothing, and then she added that sometimes she worries about monsters and nightmares. Jane thinks that making new friends is the best thing that happens to her at school, preschool, and gymnastics. When asked what she dislikes about herself, Jane responded, "I like the way I am."