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BAMBI NEWS

Staying **SAFE:**

Keeping fit
for new
and
expectant
moms

Help,
I'm flying with
a **NEWBORN**

Healthy
food fast:
Stir fried
Quinoa
with
Veggies

FOCUS ON
LITERACY:

Making the most
of reading with
your child



The Simple Things That Mean So Much

In an ongoing series, this BAMBI Mom shares some of the precious moments enjoyed by her family as they help their son with his developmental delays.

By Becky Horace

Week 6: Say Wha?

“Say wha!?!?” That’s what I feel like most days when trying to decipher what my son is trying to say but this week we have seen a noticeable difference in my son’s communication skills. From the first week of therapy I would have said that Killi would sometimes say “dadadadada”, that was about it and it was few and far between. From the beginning stages of the ESDM therapy, we have been working on going to Killi’s “spot light” and narrating everything that is going on with a few very simple terms. And it is now finally paying off.

Instead of a monotone “dadadadada”, we now hear a lot of other consonants and vowels with different tones and inflection. I’m convinced my son is a genius and is actually speaking Mandarin but as I don’t speak Mandarin I have no clue what he is saying... maybe it’s actually Japanese...!

As the weeks have gone by, he has said a few words here and there but now by week six we are consistently, clearly, and in the proper context saying “up”, “hi”, “no”, “bye”, “go”, “please”, “daddy”. And as of last week he has begun saying “momma”, I have missed this so much! It started as “maw”; whenever he needed me he would take my hand and say “mawww” but now he is saying “momma” (yes it’s all the time and yes I am sure it will drive me nuts very soon but for the moment it’s pretty exciting). He can also combine the few words he does say. The other day our nanny tried to play with him but as I was in the room Killi looked at her and said “Nooooo! Momma momma!”. It didn’t hurt anyone’s feelings because we were so excited that he had combined two words!!



The big kicker was over the weekend, I had given Killi his rice bucket to play with. He was having so much fun and then all of a sudden I hear the rice pour all over the floor with a hundred little “tick tick” sounds and a huge mess for Mommy to clean up. I would have been a little annoyed but my son looked me in the eyes and with a huge smile, he said his first sentence: “I did it!” My jaw dropped and with tears filling my eyes all I could say was “That’s right baby! You did it!” How could I be

annoyed that there was a mess to clean up when I heard my son’s first full sentence.

It’s the little things; just hearing what I think is a new word coming out of his mouth that makes all of this hard work, day in and day out, all worth while. It isn’t easy, but having the support of a great doctor, friends that constantly check on us to see how we are doing, and everyone’s prayers make things a lot more manageable!

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Week 7: All You Need Is Love

Killi is still progressing in his therapy and is trying to talk more with his babbling. He is becoming increasingly social, which is the foundation of trying to get him to talk to us. Being more social will lead to imitation and his desire to imitate will then lead to Killi trying to imitate our speech!

This week Killi has been more loving towards others. Normally he only wants his Mom all of the time, so much so that he clings to me and will not let go. I had no idea what I was missing

when it came to affection from my child. I would get the occasional hug but now he is the most loving boy. I get kisses all day long, I get eye-to-eye contact with a smile and a look that I believe is saying “Mom, I love you!”, and also hugs that are so tight they feel as if they could last all day. What a huge blessing this has been. And it isn’t just for Mom, this is also for Dad! Killi refuses to take no for an answer when he puckers up for a kiss on the lips! There’s no escaping the slobber Dad!!

When it comes to our nanny, the other

night she was saying goodbye and for the first time ever Killi totally freaked out. Normally he looks in the direction of the door when she leaves but doesn’t really react. But this time he ran after her crying, opened the door, ran to her in the hallway and hugged her neck and wouldn’t let go. When I told him “Okay son, Odie has to go to church and see Jesus” he loosened his death grip on her, waved bye and walked back inside.

This love is also being shown more at therapy. Killi enjoys the copy machine and our doctor is very gracious and will let him play with it. There is a hook thing inside and Killi has figured out that he can move one part and the hook will go down. This was the best thing ever in my son’s mind and he was so elated with joy he gave his doctor a big smile and hug, as if to say “thank you so much for having this awesome copy machine!”. And it was not once but several times!

This type of social interaction is a dream come true for any parent that has had a child that hasn’t been engaged or knew how to reciprocate the love he was being given. My heart sings with joy every time Killi initiates a hug and a kiss. By far it is the best feeling in the world.



Photo credit: Becky Horace

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