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Half a Year of Learning

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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"Growing up in a different family dynamic can be difficult yet rewarding. Rachael and I come from two separate family dynamics. Rachael grew up with a single parent and I have grown up with both parents. Although we come from different homes our families have helped us develop into the adults we are today."



From Our Guest Writer



Dr. Angela M. Amoia

Half a Year of Learning

My parents have been there...you have been there too! There is me, a baby! The picture you see is me at a quarter year old. Now, I am soon to be a half a year old! How much I have changed in these last three months, mainly in the area of learning. I come to work with my mama at least once a week and I can tell she is helping others learn. So let's talk about this thing called learning.

These days I am exploring all my senses in my learning. I can stare at and touch my mama's hands or my friend, silly monkey, for time unknown. Though I love to just sit and observe sometimes, most of the time I am on the go go go crawling all around from place to place and examining everything I encounter. But when I hear some music from my Einstein toy, I stop and listen with joy taking in every note. I've always been a good eater, but now eating is so much more fun! I am trying all new things lately (of course one at a time) and my taste buds love all the cereals and vegetables so far. I'm just now starting into the sweet goodness of fruits and so far, so good!

In a nutshell, though I might be focusing in on one sense or another, it is amazing how I have to use all of my senses to understand what I am doing at any particular moment. I have already had so many wonderful days and I know there are so many days still ahead of me. I cannot wait to live each of those days ahead with exploration! I knew my parents and God waited for just the right time since it is *me* they made. Till next time...

Since I was a little girl, learning has always been fun for me and still is to this day. This is probably why I played school back then and now am in academia. I have many favorite parts of being a mom, but one of my favorites is observing and participating in the joy of exploration with Francesca. She is either smiling and laughing or intently concentrating depending on what

she is participating in. I lose track of time when playing with her. How could I not? Everything is brand new to her and I get much pleasure being by her side when she figures something out for the first time (or second or third). Playing with her has not only helped me understand how she learns, but has enlightened me on the basic process of learning and broadened my creativity and imagination when developing activities for my students. She is a constant reminder to approach every day as if everything is new to me. Not only does it make life fun, but it stimulates me which can be contagious to those around.

At a younger age, I made the conscious decision to be an older parent. I was always afraid that God was going to punish me for making that decision by either not letting me get pregnant or not letting me go to full term. At first I thought my fear was true, but one day it finally happened...I was having a baby! My fear stayed with me through the pregnancy and I prayed every day to have a full term, healthy and happy baby. Not only has God allowed me to be pregnant, but he gave me an amazing little one that I can't stop wanting to be with, as evident from above. Being an older parent has treated me well and it has made me more easily recognize that no one person (little or large) is ever perfect. During those times, Francesca brings me patience, goodness and a light heart. She reminds me to always think good thoughts, to speak good thoughts and to feel good thoughts toward others and in return to myself. Francesca has not only blessed me but blessed so many lives around her and I look forward to the one-of-a-kind journey ahead called motherhood!

With Blessings,
Angela & Francesca

