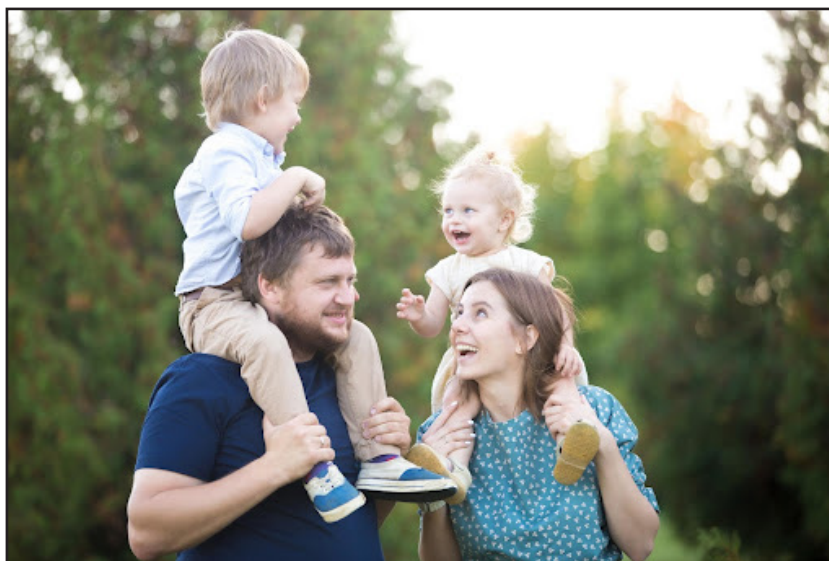


Talks on Tuesdays: Using Eco Maps to Understand Family Relationships

Vignette: Cassie



Cassie is an 12-month-old child who lives with Mom, Dad and older brother. Cassie was born with a congenital heart defect and is followed by a cardiologist. Cassie attends an in-home daycare while Mom and Dad work. There are three teachers and ten children ranging in age from infants to four-year-old's.

Maternal grandparents live close by, but Mom has a strained relationship with her parents, and they visit only occasionally. Paternal grandparents live across the country and FaceTime weekly with Cassie and her brother. Family attends church weekly and Cassie and her brother are in a playgroup together twice per month while Mom volunteers.

Mom is unsure if she is concerned about Cassie's temperament. Mom feels like she is easily "panicked" when people approach her for interaction. Mom described her as difficult to engage with most of the time. Mom reported that Cassie can become easily frustrated. She is content to be held or play on the floor for long periods of time with minimal interaction. She makes good eye contact so long as it is on her terms.

Mom described Cassie as a quiet child. She can spend a lot of the day not making any noises. She is not yet using playful sounds such as "vroom" or "beep beep." When she is playing, Cassie shows preferences for particular toys. She likes to look at books, play with puzzles, and play kitchen set. Cassie plays mostly with family members or familiar people. To give her more social opportunities, Cassie's parents have been taking her and her brother to the local playground but due to her heart condition, Cassie tends to tire easily.

