

Activity 4 Meet Ellie

Ellie is 3. She finds nursery and life in general much easier when she has a routine that stays the same every day. When things change or she has to do something that she doesn't feel comfortable doing, Ellie becomes very frustrated and her behaviour can be challenging. She is never happier than when she is very busy running around the nursery or the local park and has a tendency to hyperactivity, even more so than a typical 3 year old.

Many of Ellie's early developmental milestones, such as rolling, sitting, crawling, were normal. Her parents noticed that she wasn't speaking clearly or using any of the words used by other children of her age and took her to their GP. Ellie was diagnosed as having Fragile X Syndrome a few months after the initial GP visit.

Ellie has recently started nursery where they have set up a PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) system to support her communication. Her parents have started to use a similar system at home and although it is early days it seems to be working well.

Ellie's nursery support worker feels that Ellie understands much more than her speech and language difficulties might suggest and is confident that, as she gets used to the nursery, she will make good progress and find it easier to interact with other adults and children. Ellie's parents want her to be able to communicate better and to make friends. They want her to go to school with the friends she makes at the nursery.

Her parents have found her diagnosis very hard and are still coming to terms with what this may mean for Ellie and for them as a family. They want her to be happy and to be just like any 3-year old.