

My Point Of View

by

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Hi! My name is Aaron Crow. I have a five year old sister named Emily and she is developmentally handicapped because she has a deletion of the seventh chromosome. Her deletion has set her back in life so when she wants to eat we have to help her and even then we still end up feeding her most of the time. Just two weeks ago she learned to sort with lima beans. We would open the bean pod and give it to her. Then, she would take it and put the beans in a bowl and the bean pod in a basket. A year ago she just began to walk. Even now, she totters around and still needs a little help going up the steps. Emily is still learning to talk. Her language consists of about twenty understandable simple words.

When my sister was first born, or was about to be born I pictured a very healthy baby that would be out of the hospital in no time. I could play with her and hold her. Instead, it was a lot different than I thought. My life got hard because I started thinking about how it was going to be. What I pictured after she was born was a person that had all these cords hooked up to her and she wouldn't be able to move. Sometimes I get mad because she was born with all her defects. There are some good things and bad things about having a sister with developmental handicaps.

Some of the bad things are that she is five but developmentally she is a two year old. So, when she doesn't get what she wants she'll either throw a fit or arch her back. Another bad thing is that sometimes I have to feed her. What a mess! Also, she has a very strong arm. When we are eating dinner, she will laugh as if anticipating something. Then, she will pick up a piece of food and hit someone with it. She pulls her hair to calm herself down, so at night she has to wear a shirt with the sleeves sewn shut. She gets into everyone's things. She's also a big "helper" turning my room

upside down. That's why when you go to my house all the doors are closed and everything's up high and out of her reach. She still has an awesome reach. I also have to pick up after her when she messes up the living room. She used to have to go to numerous therapy appointments and I had to go with her because I was home schooled then. When we go places we always have to go extra slow because she is just learning to walk. She has to take everything in like when we went to the zoo. Or, sometimes we don't go all because she doesn't like loud noises. Football games, fireworks, and bowling alleys are too noisy for her. You probably think that having a developmentally handicapped sibling could be nothing but trouble because of all the above, but really there are some good things too.

Here are some of the good things. She makes me feel like I'm an important person because she laughs at the things I do even when others don't think I'm funny. For example, I got in a box and started tipping it over and she started laughing like you wouldn't believe it. When I don't feel very good she'll crawl over to me, put her head in my lap and start giggling. Sometimes she makes me laugh. Once on Halloween my sister wasn't old enough to carve a pumpkin, so we gave her a black marker. She started coloring on the pumpkin and herself. We had to give her another marker because she colored so much with the first marker that she burned in out. When she was done coloring, there was marker on the floor and you couldn't even tell it was a pumpkin. There were also wiggle lines all over her, too.

Having Emily as a sister has taught me many things. One thing is patience. She has taught me this by being slow, so I have to help her through something. I have used that in my life when I help someone that can't do something very well. It gives me patience to help them. It has taught me to like people more. If someone does something awkward or different than anyone else, it has taught me to accept those people who do stick out. It has taught me to have joy. Sometimes when I look at her, she is always excited about the little things. That has taught me how to do the same. Kindness is another thing I've learned. It has taught me to be kind to people that other people look down on and to treat them like they're important. All in all, there are some ups and downs, but I think having my sister, Emily, in my life has really made me a better all around person.