

Social and Developmental History

School Social Work Intern
Rachel Wood
April 2, 2020
Piper Soland

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Date of Interview: April 2, 2020

Person Interviewed: Hanna Bogner

Client Name: Piper Soland

Date of Birth: September 14, 2018

Address: 248 Killian Way, Mount Juliet, TN 37122

Phone: 615-598-3263

Mother's Name: Hanna Bogner

Date of Birth: September 7, 1994

Father's Name: Nathan Soland

Date of Birth: January 6, 1994

Sibling(s): none

Date of Birth: none

Presenting Situation/History:

Piper is a toddler who is about to turn two years old. Piper lives with her mother, Hanna Bogner, who just recently separated from Piper's father, Nathan Soland. Hanna and Nathan have tried to work things out as Piper was the result of an unplanned pregnancy. They lived together the first year and a half, but finally have decided to go their separate ways. Hanna continues to try and raise Piper in the best atmosphere, and she is sure to bring Piper around other family members so that she has healthy connections. Piper just started day care this year, and her teachers asked to meet with Hanna about concerns for Piper's development of communicating. This is something Hanna has noticed: Piper is not developing language skills at the same rate as her peers. This has caused great concern for Hanna.

Reason for Referral

While Piper displays several strengths as she interacts with peers—she is able to share toys, she is not aggressive, and she is gentle—she seems to be very withdrawn at times, and she does not utilize any language skills which she has learned to communicate with others. This is especially interesting, because Piper seemingly understands language and social cues when they are being told to her. Still, she refrains from properly communicating back.

At home, Piper continues to seem withdrawn on many occasions. Piper will ignore what is being said to her, and will only focus on the television screen. This is particularly unusual for a child her age who should find interest in several things. Under many circumstances, Hanna tries

to get Piper to use words and communicate, but Piper continuously will only mumble. Hanna wonders if Piper is stubborn and is refraining from speaking because she does not want to, not because she does not know how to.

As concerns grew for Hanna and Piper's daycare teachers, Hanna decided to bring up the information to Piper's doctor. While it is somewhat ordinary for children to take a bit longer than others to use language, the doctor is particularly concerned for the fact that Piper seems to know words and language, but chooses not to utilize them.

Hanna is continuously concerned for the development of her child, and she feels it is her responsibility to address the issue early, even if there is not a true issue. Hanna seems to feel guilty about the initial home situation Piper was born into, where she was around constant fighting between Hanna and Nathan, and where she now is going back and forth between homes as both young parents live apart but want to raise her. Hanna is trying to understand who she should see and what she should do in order to get Piper the help she needs.

Mental Health

There are currently no mental health concerns for Piper, primarily because of her young age. Piper might seem withdrawn or isolated in some instances, but she has not given reason to believe that she is dealing with any experiences of depression, anxiety, or trauma.

Family Background

Hanna Bogner and Nathan Soland met casually at a bar in downtown Nashville. They immediately felt a strong attraction towards each other and decided to start dating while they knew little about each other's lives. As a couple, they dated for two months before realizing that they were not a great fit for each other. Hanna explains that she believed Nathan was dishonest about his work and friends, and that he had poor financial spending habits. Although they fought often and Hanna had bad feeling about Nathan, they continued to date because they still felt some type of attraction to each other. Three months into the relationship, Hanna discovered—in complete shock and anxiety—that she was pregnant. This immediately complicated her relationship with Nathan. The two decided to keep the baby and try to do what was best for their soon-to-come child. While they had several relationship issues, they decided to move in together and help each other raise the child who would be Piper Brighton Soland.

Hanna explains that in the first year of Piper's life, she needed the help of Nathan, so she is happy she stayed with him. Still, she explains that they fought continuously, even in front of Piper. Hanna would catch Nathan in lies about his work and financial situation, and Nathan would criticize Hanna for always trying to hang out with different friends and other men. Hanna admits that at times she was seeing other men, because to her the relationship with Nathan was not a romantic one, but more of a co-parenting situation. Hanna explains that the tensions became worse and worse, so she finally decided to break things off with Nathan and ask him to move out of the house which she owns with her own money. Nathan agreed to end things, but explained that he would like to be a part of parenting Piper.

Through the months following Nathan and Hanna splitting, Nathan seemed to be less of an effective father, and continuously came up with excuses not to take care of Piper on the weekends (like the two had previously agreed). Nathan pays child support, but Hanna fears each month that he will refuse to pay it. Also, Nathan sends Hanna criticizing texts about how Hanna

is not raising Piper well. Piper will have a rash or a sickness, and Nathan will claim that it is Hanna's inefficient parenting which causes it. Hanna has not yet involved an attorney about the situation, because she is waiting for a "final straw" before involving the complexities of the law.

Currently, Hanna's now boyfriend Gregg has moved in with her and Piper. Gregg is kind to Piper, but on several occasions is overwhelmed and unequipped to dealing with her tantrums, need for things she cannot communicate, or need for basic care. Hanna feels guilty for bringing Gregg into a parenting situation which he did not sign up for, but she also feels frustrated when he criticizes Piper for things like crying or yelling.

Education

Hanna is very adamant about getting Piper the best education. Piper is currently in a top-rated, expensive daycare which will prepare her to eventually enter private school in Nashville, Tennessee. Hanna personally values education as she completed her college degree with high grades. Nathan did not seek higher education, and perceivably cares less about Piper's education. Hanna does not believe Nathan will financially support Piper's education, and she is preparing to be the primary income source for most of Piper's educational expenses. At Piper's current daycare, teachers seem to be very invested and caring towards Piper, and Hanna makes multiple efforts to connect and communicate with Piper's teachers.

Family Activities

Piper and Hanna participate in several fun activities together. Since having Piper, Hanna has moved to a Work From Home system, which has allowed her several opportunities to engage in play with Piper. Hanna is very close—both emotionally and geographically—to her immediate family members (sister and parents) and she engages in several fun outings with them both around town and in travel, and she always brings Piper along. Hanna is sure to integrate her dating relationship with Gregg to activities where Piper is also included. For the most part, this seems to work well. However, there are moments where Gregg seems to be discouraged to spend so much time around a child who is not his own.

Health

Piper had her last major checkup last month, and overall she seems to be very healthy. She is displaying health motor skills, and her vision, hearing, etc. all tested as very healthy. She has no major health concerns and is not taking any medications apart from her daily vitamin supplements. Her current biggest health concern is her inability to use words to communicate or form sentences. This was less of a concern when first brought up, but now her doctor is starting to wonder if she is late to be refraining from using words.

Strengths

Current Perceptions

Hanna is worried that Piper might be displaying some delayed development in her speech and communication abilities. Hanna has received word from Piper's teachers that she is not

connecting with other children in a way that seems normal. Hanna is trying to understand who she should speak with or what she should do to help Piper.

Piper seems to know how to speak but refrains from using her skills because she either cannot or does not want to. For periods of time, Piper will disengage from her surroundings—including peer or family interactions—to watch television or zone out. Piper has been raising in a changing atmosphere, and Hanna is beginning to worry if Piper is developing well given her circumstances.

Conclusions

Piper is a toddler who is displaying some potential developmental issues in her speech and communication. This issue has been noticed by her primary caregiver, Hanna, as well as her daycare teachers and her doctor.

Piper was an unplanned pregnancy and was born to two parents who fought often and do not believe they make a good pair. At one and a half, Piper's dad moved out and only sees her on the weekends. There is sufficient evidence to show that the mother Hanna is doing an effective job of raising her, but the same cannot be said about the father Nathan.

Piper is currently in a house with her mother and the boyfriend, Gregg, who is overall kind but also unequipped to be raising a child. Piper's mother Hanna is seeking steps to take in order to address Piper's communication needs and understand what atmosphere would be best for Piper to have a healthy childhood.

Recommendations

- Piper will have an appointment this week with a Speech Language Pathologist to address the specific issues, as well as discuss whether the problems are common for her age.
- Hanna will collaboratively meet with the daycare teachers to express the details about the meeting with the SLP, and she will ask for any observations from them, in order to understand and track Piper's progress.
- Hanna will personally carry out suggested exercises (given to her from the SLP) daily with Piper.
- Hanna will meet with Piper's father, Nathan, to discuss the issue and request that Nathan agree to collaborate with the other professionals and carry out the exercises. In this meeting, Hanna will assertively express her concerns that Piper receive the most effective care when she is with Nathan.
- Hanna will meet with her boyfriend Gregg to discuss the exercises/topics which the SLP has addressed with her. Hanna will request Gregg's collaboration in addressing Piper's needs as he is living with her.
- Hanna will plan for future meetings with the SLP to continuously discuss Piper's progress in the issue.
- Hanna will book an appointment with Piper's doctor one month from now to discuss Piper's developmental progress.
- Hanna, the School Social Worker, and the day care professionals will plan a meeting in two weeks to discuss the progress of these steps, as well as address any other concerns at that time.