

### **Amber McAdam Monologue Script**

My name is Amber McAdam and I'm a mom of three. My husband Marshall and the kids and I live in the suburbs in our dream home, which we bought last year. We both work full-time. I'm an accountant and Marshall works for a construction company. We do okay financially. There's not a lot of money left at the end of the month, but we manage a trip with the kids maybe once or twice a year. And our kids are in a good day care facility.

Our son Jameson is almost 6 years old. We were so excited when we planned for a child, and I got pregnant right away. Jamie has always been so smart. He started walking at 10 months and was speaking in sentences before he was 2. We spent a lot of time with him, reading and playing. He is in kindergarten now and he can read simple books. He's the only one in his class who can read already. My mom's a teacher and she's so proud of him. We all are. He has a lot of friends in the neighborhood and in school.

Stella is 4. She's a funny, active little girl. She's so helpful around the house, and she really helps with Damon, her younger brother. She goes to gymnastics class with her day care class and she's doing amazing! She gets along with everyone and is the best teacher's helper. She has a temper sometimes, but I like to think of it as being strong-willed! Good for her!

Damon is 2 ½ years old. He was a strong healthy baby, my chubby nine-pound boy. He seemed like the other kids when he was born, although he never slept very much. He started out talking like they did. When he was a year old, he had about 10 words you could understand, and a lot more words when he was 18 months (about 1 and a half years) old. It seemed like he changed before he turned 2. He stopped talking as much, and some words he will not even say anymore. He can put puzzles together even better than Stella, but he does not like to do things with other kids. He can scream and have temper tantrums about silly things. The day care teacher seems worried about him; she's known him since he was an infant. I'm a little worried. He also does some odd things my other kids never did, like rocking back and forth for long periods of time. Not talking, just sitting on the floor and rocking.

Marshall, Damon's dad, has a hard time with the tantrums. Damon doesn't respond to his name or verbal commands. It can make you mad. Is he not listening? Or just ignoring us? The other kids had their moments, but they never got so upset and hard to reach like Damon. Marshall was never crazy about the infant stage, he did more with the kids once they started walking and talking. But Damon seems to frustrate him so he kind of avoids having to take care of him. It's not like it was with the other kids.

And now Damon seems really sick. There are a few other kids at day care with this stomach thing. He started vomiting three days ago, then diarrhea. I've been home from work with him the last two days. He's a really picky eater but since yesterday I can't get him to drink water or his favorite juice. I'm worried he's dehydrated; he's just been lying around. The rest of us are

okay, I sent the kids to school and day care this morning. They all ate dinner tonight and I put the kids to bed at 7:30.

When Damon wouldn't even stand up this evening, I knew he was really sick. I told my husband I was taking him to the ER. Marshall stayed home with the other kids. But I know he's worried too. I hope the ER staff can handle Damon's temper, though he seems so sick now I don't think he'll put up much of a fight. I wish I could explain to him what's going on.