

Mark John

(present information about Mark John to your learners one section at a time to explore how additional information affects assessment and management)

Mark John is a 4-year-old male who has been living with his father, step mom and two younger half siblings, (twins). He has resided in Colorado for the past six months. He is in the 10th percentile for height and weight. He speaks Spanish better than English. His father is fluent in Mandarin, Spanish and English, but his stepmother who is third generation Chinese is only fluent in English. Mark John has had a recent pediatric exam and his parents report it is normal. He is aggressive to objects and people whenever adults set limits with him. He hits children at his preschool and he is also tires to control the actions of his siblings. His parents report that he gets aggressive when children fail to follow his directives at his daycare. During the past week, he has attempted to bite his stepmother when she sets limits. Mark John tells his step mother “you are not my mother”. He tends to follow his father’s directions after his father threatens to put Mark John in “time out”. When his parents put him in “time out” he later throws or destroys his toys.

Mark John’s stepmother notes that even when he has “good” days he fusses about eating dinner with the family at the table. Mark John also tends to hoard leftover food and resists going to bed at night. His father notes that Mark John doesn’t like to sleep in his own room or in the dark.

Father wants to maintain custody of Mark John but is concerned that Mark John may be too violent for the home. He is considering having Mark John stay with his in-laws. Mark John stepmom's parents believe that he would benefit from a more traditional Chinese "first son" upbringing. She reports she has not used "Chinese medicine" and isn't very "traditional" Chinese in her parenting style. Mark John's parents are looking for help in learning how to manage his aggression. Mark John sits near his parents plays and answers your questions after a few minutes. He is very orderly in his play and focuses on building with blocks. He refuses to clean up but does so after his dad starts to put the blocks away.

You have asked Mark John's parents to return without him to collect additional information. Mark John has a history of being close to his biological mother. Both parents attended her prenatal appointments. The father noted Mark John's mom was healthy during the pregnancy and Mark John was born without any difficulties. Mark John's mother's "eating disorder" returned when Mark John was 8 months old. She continuously struggled with depression and her eating disorder. She divorced his father when Mark John was two years old. His mother now lives with her parents. Typically Mark John and his father would visit the city that his mother lives in every few months. His father doesn't travel overseas as often because of his job promotion and new duties so Mark John only has webcam/phone visits with his biological mother.