

A Day in the Life of Teacher Monica
Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program (PPT)

Email sent on December 3, 2014 to Mikala Rahn

Long day! But here are the facts and reports of today...coming straight from the source...Maria's mom, Raul, and Maria...I'm including you Mikala just to keep you in loop. The whole PPT team is aware of the situation.

Friday at 3am Maria Garcia (sister of a graduate, George and Steven Para's girlfriend) checked into Huntington Hospital because of strong contractions. She received the epidural and didn't take too well to it. Thankfully, baby girl was born at 1pm Friday afternoon. Immediately after the birth Maria began complaining about really bad headaches and was in tears most of the time. The nurses mentioned it could be exhaustion, stress, etc. Headaches didn't go away and she was given Tylenol. At about 9pm when the nurse came into check on her, she could not wake Maria up. Her eyes were wide open according to Raul, but was not responding to the nurses. Raul didn't notice because he himself was asleep. She was unconscious. They took a cat scan and found that her brain had swollen up pretty bad and the pressure was starting to impact her skull. A fluid that was a mix of water and the medication from the epidural (risk of 1 in 100!) had caused the swelling. She was still unconscious, so she was rushed to surgery. Fortunately (being positive) only the front part of her head was shaved off. She still has long hair on the sides and back. A tube was put in her head to drain out the liquid. It took almost a day and a half to drain out...Saturday and most of Sunday. She was in the ICU the rest of Sunday, Monday, and most of Tuesday. This is the point where we at LW found out. Baby needed to be discharged, so Maria's mom was given permission to take her home. I emailed that I would go see her.



This morning I get to the hospital and she is getting tube taken out of her head. Told to come back. Called mom to ask her permission to visit and mom says she is at home with baby cannot be at hospital, because she has three other toddlers at home to watch. Raul was by Maria's side all weekend except Tuesday since he had to be at work. I ask mom if she needs anything mom says she was given papers, blankets and four small already prepared formula bottles and shipped off. She has no money for formula, contacted WIC who said Maria had to be present to receive the formula vouchers for baby. I offered to call WIC and try to get a better solution. Mom agreed. Thank you Miss Jenny (Office Manager) for getting me funds to take over formula. While I waited for Maria to get out of the procedure, I went to mom's house to take formula. Baby is ADORABLE. Glucose level was a little low, but will rise within the week. Took some warm clothes I grabbed for her at the store. And yes, there are three other toddlers running around, but they seem healthy and happy. David was there, told him to start getting ready for CAHSEE prep!

At 12pm I went back to hospital. I had a little care package for Raul with deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc. (Thank you Hope Works) Maria looked EXTREMELY DEPRESSED. Looked very surprised to see me. Raul was kind enough to give us some alone time, and I was able to let her know if she needed any of us we would be there. She seemed very embarrassed about her hair and was hiding under the sheets the entire time. At 12:30 the nurse came in and said the neuro-surgeon had cleared her, and we were now waiting for the OBGYN to clear her. It seemed a little too soon. I asked a few questions about medication, possible risks, what she should stay away from etc. The doctor was nice and answered all questions.

Maria must have asked a thousand times when she could go home, she missed her baby and wanted to be with her. The nurses were so sweet and had pasted pictures of the baby around the room the night before to keep her happy. At 2:30pm we were still waiting on the OB to come in and check on her. 3pm. 3:30pm. Nothing. Finally a random nurse came in and said the OB had "called in"

and said she was good to go. There was no check, nothing. She was given prescriptions for seizures and headaches. Told to come back to the ER if she has ANY headaches. Raul asked good questions and I did too. Maria had none. She just wanted to know what time she could go home.

Neither of them had a ride home from the hospital. Both moms weren't available, no car, etc. At 5pm we realized Maria had NO CLOTHES, no shoes! Mom had taken everything! We called mom to get a bag ready. I left to go pick up the bag, came back, Maria got dressed and I drove them home.

Prescriptions were to be filled at CVS. I offered to stop by to drop it off but Maria was not having it. She wanted to go home.

Maria was still very dizzy when we were getting out the car and the rain wasn't helping! She finally got to baby. I made sure I repeated the doc's instructions to her mom so she was aware. Thankfully, someone had called mom back from WIC and made an exception to have mom go pick up formula vouchers in Maria's place by Friday. I reminded them about the prescriptions and mom said she would go later when the rain went away.

During our wait for the nurse, Raul was telling me about his job and the possibility of all employees getting laid off soon. He asked for my help in finding out places that are hiring. I informed him about the new counselor but I know coming in is not realistic right now this second so I promised him a list by Friday when I go check on Maria for a home visit. I will talk to Cynthia (Counselor) first thing tomorrow morning.

I will definitely stay on this group these couple of weeks. I will check on them Friday and throughout the week next week. Make sure Maria goes to her follow up appointment next week and doesn't skip out. Baby has appointment too, so we are good. I'll keep you ladies updated. Keep them in your thoughts please. Enjoy this adorable eye candy—This is Emerald Samantha.

