



Riley Visits Mateo

by Birgit Laurent, Mateo's Mom



Today Mateo's friend Riley came to spend the day with us. It was a little hard at first for Riley, because this was not her home. So Riley was feeling a bit out of sorts, and in turn, Mateo seemed sad with her.



Then I saw a spark in Riley as she seemed to take charge of her situation. She spotted a wooden block on the coffee table, and in order to get to it, she climbed onto Mateo's chair.



As she sat in the chair she noticed the shelves of CD's so close to her reach in the other direction.



She got down and led Mateo over to his chair and with some sort of non-verbal mesmerizing power got him to sit in it. Then her plan began.



Riley decided to take the CD's off the shelf and place them in Mateo's lap. At first Mateo seemed unsure what to make of it, as if he were thinking, "Hey. This is not what you do with those."



But Riley persisted. It was as if she were saying, “Here, Mateo. I really want to give these to you.”



Through Riley's persistence, Mateo got the game and started to laugh.



The more CD's that came off the shelf, the more Riley made Mateo laugh.



Then Riley and Mateo became intrigued by their CD's. They began studying them and having some kind of mutually understandable dialogue with each other.



There were so many CD's, they began to fall on the floor. As Riley picked them up off the floor, she seemed to be thinking, "Hmm, I think we can actually listen to these."



So I put on one of the CD's for them and together they searched to find where the music was coming from.



Riley began to dance, and Mateo looked on admiringly.



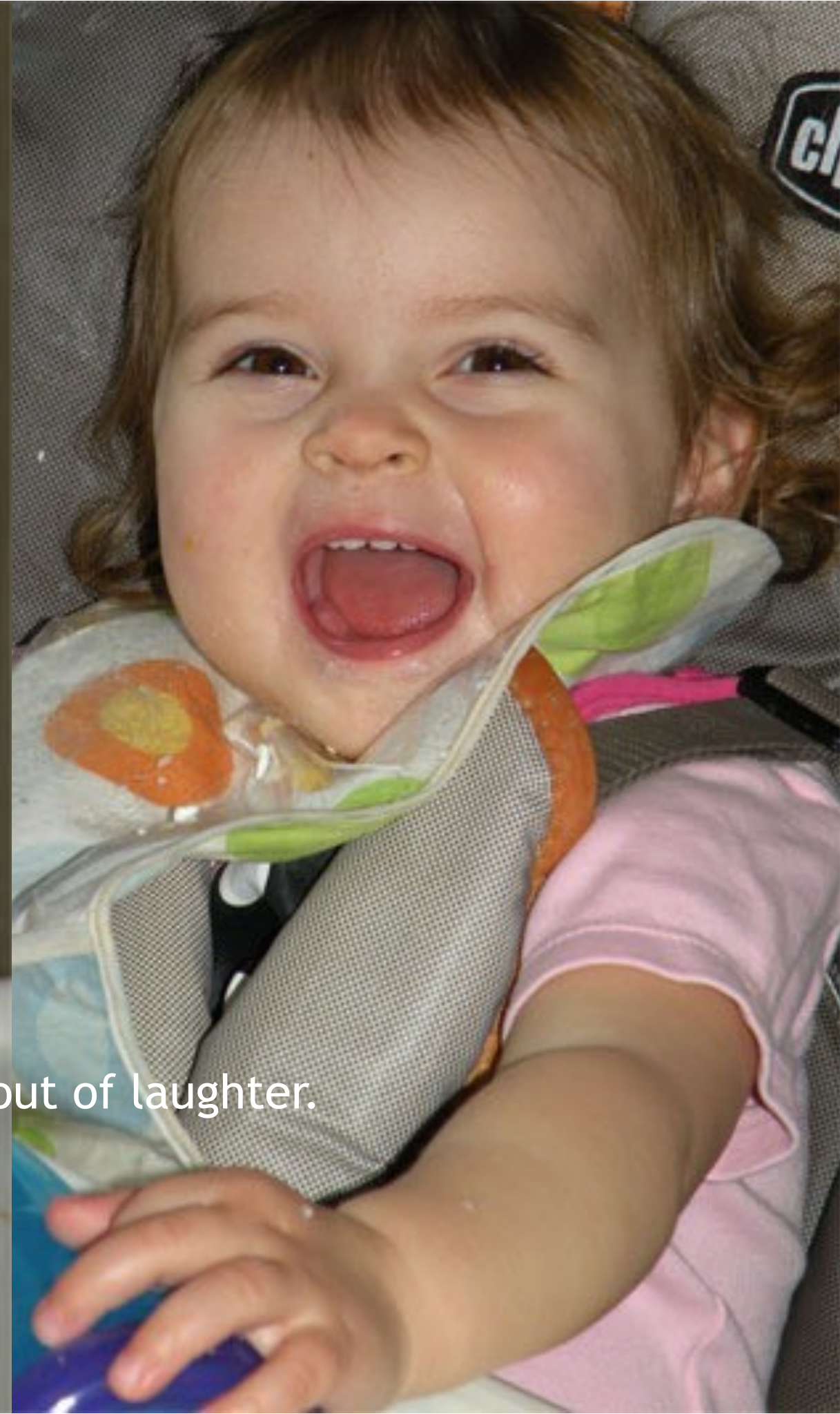
For the rest of the day, they literally did everything together.



They ended their delightful day of cooperative play, with a snack...



...and a contagious bout of laughter.



What it means...

Riley, today you entered into a new environment. Although it was initially a bit scary, you overcame your fear, and you took the initiative to invite Mateo into your world of play. Through that invitation, you created a atmosphere of cooperation that continued throughout the entire day. You did not bicker or struggle for each other's toys. Rather, you shared and had fun together, and your genuine care for your friend shone through.

Opportunities and Possibilities...

Riley displayed her genuine characteristics of leadership, cooperation, and care. In such a young child, this was amazing for me to witness. As she continues to practice, nurture, and find joy in these admirable traits, the opportunities and possibilities that open to her are endless.

Riley's Mom adds...

Are you kidding me??!!??

These pictures are adorable, and I love how candid they are.

I am really touched to see how happy Riley and Mateo are together. They obviously had so much fun.

Thank you for sharing this sweet story with me. I usually joke that Riley is being 'bossy,' but I love how you saw it as taking initiative. I'm very touched to hear these kind words about my daughter. Thank you!

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#7 Project of Understanding
Connecting to Children

Module D4 - Attending to Initiative, Cooperation, and Perseverance

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