

Portrait of John

John is a father of three; he has one son, Jake (16), and two daughters, Bethany (10) and Rose (4). He has recently retired and is the stay-at-home caretaker for his youngest daughter, Rose. When Rose was 2 years old, John and his wife Marilyn, noticed that Rose was delayed in developmental stages such as sitting, crawling, walking and speech. Rose is not actually speaking yet. After talking to Rose's pediatrician, he suggested doing a full neurological test. Rose was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Rose now attends physical therapy twice a week, wears leg braces which have improved her mobility and attends occupational therapy. Having Rose 6 and 10 years after their school-age children has been quite a transition for the family and they are feeling overwhelmed. It seems like the children fight over just about everything. Along with John's retirement, and some additional costs involved with Rose's medical needs, they are financially stressed. Rose's need for constant care and family tensions have also led to emotional stress between John and his wife.

Rose's older brother, Jake, is looking forward to attending college in the near future. He loves his youngest sister, but is resentful of the time and resources required for her care. He is concerned that his parents will not be able to financially support his college education. Rose's sister, Bethany, is often overprotective of Rose and tends to baby her. Bethany loves her sister but resents the constant attention she requires from her parents.

John highly values education for each of his children, and strives to do what he can to support his children's' education. Finding affordable daycare and services for Rose has been a struggle for the family. They would prefer Rose to attend kindergarten in their local public school, provided she can receive speech therapy.