



It Takes a Village

Ivory: Shelby was in the car with my husband yesterday morning waiting for the bus, and there was bird poop on her side of the wind shield. And so my husband said to her, “Shelby you really need to tell the birds not to poop on the windshield” because she was complaining about how dirty it was and she says, “Well Papa Chuck, I don’t speak bird.”

Bus Driver: *Have a great evening.*

Ivory: *What do you say?*

Shelby: *Thank you!*

Bus Driver: *You are welcome.*

Ivory: *Thanks a lot.*

Shelby’s Mother: I don’t even know what to call Ivory. She’s more than a caregiver, she’s more than a nanny. I always tell people she’s better than family.

Ivory: *OK, we’re in business. What are we making?*

Shelby: *I want to make a jumping rope.*

Ivory: *It’s not quite long enough for a jumping rope.*

I’ve been with her since she was three months old. So, we are very close. My job is to be her coach. You know, She’s entered this life, and it’s to show her how to get through it the best way possible. So, we do a lot of talking.

I don’t think we could actually jump with it, but we could actually make it really long.

One thing that amazes me is that if you use a word that she’s never heard, she always will ask what does that mean?

You can put them all on there they’ll just, the weight will make them fall.

Shelby: *Huh?*

Ivory: *The weight of the bead will make them fall into place.*

Shelby: *What?*

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Ivory: *Is your hearing aid working?*

Shelby: *Yeah it works. Weight, what does weight mean?*

Ivory: *The weight, see this, when you pick up the bead? Feel that. That's called weight, how much it weighs.*

Which keeps me very sharp because if I can't explain a word then I really shouldn't use it.

Shelby: *Why is it not going down?*

Ivory: *Ta-dah!*

Shelby: *Cheating.*

Ivory: I didn't know anything about children with hearing loss before I met Shelby, and Jodi, and their family.

Ivory: *And you know what I saw through the window today?*

Shelby: *What?*

Ivory: *A finch.*

Shelby: *Can you draw me one?*

Ivory: *I don't know, my bird drawing is not so great. Let's see if I can make you...*

Shelby: *That looks like an angel fish.*

Ivory: *That's supposed to be a bird, don't give me that angel fish!*

In the beginning, I had trouble getting her to do what I needed her to do.

Shelby: *I could draw a bird for you.*

Ivory: *OK, what is that? That looks like an egg. Why didn't I think of that?*

It's not so much she was ignoring me. She had just, I had to prove I was fit to lead.

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You know, that looks like a target. It looks like he flew over and dropped that egg right dead center into the target.

Now she did one day take her batteries out so she couldn't hear me.

So that bird is shooting eggs out.

Shelby's Father: They say it takes a village. It's just amazing, Ivory is very on track with us in the way we want to raise Shelby. It's good to have a very strong, outgoing role model.

Ivory: *One two three. There we go!*

Shelby's Mother: We're both full time working parents outside of the household, but we know we don't have to worry about it.

Ivory: *Don't do that bobble head, you can't bobble head...*

Shelby's Mother: I don't think I have advice because everybody's situation is going to be different, you know. I mean, I think it's just important to find someone that you can trust, and know that they have the best interests of your child.

[doorbell ringing]

Ivory: *Who's at the door?*