

CASE VIGNETTE: THE MONTES FAMILY

Elise Montes, a 28-year-old woman, recently moved to the area and brings her 6-month-old baby, Moses, to your clinic for the first time. Born full term and healthy, Moses has had no medical problems and is developing well. As you interview Ms. Montes, you note that she is comfortably breast-feeding Moses and is responsive to his needs.

Ms. Montes' medical history indicates that she had a healthy pregnancy, although the circumstances were difficult. She is unmarried, and the baby's father left her after learning of her pregnancy. During the pregnancy, she sought shelter at a religious home that provides care for mothers and their infants. Ms. Montes' mother visited her briefly after Moses was born but has returned to her home in Venezuela.

Ms. Montes moved to the city to live with her brother. He is helpful with the baby when he is at home, but he works long hours. Ms. Montes says that she would like to get a job to help her brother with finances, because she worries a great deal about money.

Although Ms. Montes reports feeling tired frequently, she really enjoys Moses, especially now that he is starting to respond more. As you examine Moses, Ms. Montes asks several questions about his feeding, growth, and development. She says that she often thinks of questions at home but has difficulty remembering them once she arrives at the clinic.