



Hi! My name is Helen Parr and I am a former teacher. I taught for seven years and then became a stay-at-home-mom. I am looking forward to substitute teaching this year. My husband's name is Bob and he is an insurance agent. Our daughter, Violet, is now 18-months-old.

We wanted to take a minute to introduce ourselves because Violet will be joining your child in day care starting in September. Violet has a rare genetic condition called Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome (SDS). This condition is comprised of three main characteristics: bone marrow failure, pancreatic insufficiency, and bone abnormalities. Here's what we'd like you to know:

1. **This condition is not contagious**, it's genetic. Interestingly, we are all carriers of roughly 5-10 different genetic mutations and when two parents are carriers of the same disorder, there is a chance of their child having the condition. We did not know we were carriers of this mutated gene.
2. **Violet's bone marrow does not work like the rest of ours.** A lot of her cell lines are low. She is severely neutropenic, meaning that her body does not make enough of neutrophils to fight off infection (specifically bacterial infections). It's important that we take precautions to keep her from getting sick like practicing good hand hygiene, eating healthy, and minimizing contact with people who are sick. When she has a fever, it could be an indication of a life-threatening infection and we must take her to the hospital. Her body isn't able to fight infections like the rest of ours can.

We strive to raise Violet to live as normal a life as possible. She is a sweet and social little girl who loves to be around other children. Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions. We're pretty open about it 😊

We are very confident that we have found the best of at home day care providers with Kari and look forward to meeting you.

Helen, Bob, and Violet Parr