

## Episode 1: Parents Find Out About the Diagnosis

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**Settings:** Chávez home; inside car; waiting room; doctor's office

**Characters:** Announcer, Lourdes, Mario, (Ana), Nurse, Dr. Edmunds

*Intro music (same for each episode) fades up and under narration*

Announcer: You are listening to the latest edition of *Un Nuevo Amanecer Para Ana Y Su Familia*. Join us each week as we travel with the Chávez family through the ups and downs of raising a child with a disability in a sometimes unfriendly world.

Lourdes Narrates: *(speaking directly to the radio audience)* I can still remember that day. *(sighs)* It was one of the worst days of my life. *(Pause)* Ana. My beautiful baby, Ana. My miracle baby. That was the day our lives changed. Forever. And Mario – he made it even harder. But it was not his fault – carrying that secret around with him all those years. Storing away his anger. Well, let me start our story there. Perhaps you can learn something from our journey.

*(Music fades up and out again)*

Nurse: *(shouting loudly over chatter)* Ana Chávez to see Dr. Edmunds?

Lourdes *(to baby, smiling)* That's you sweetheart!

*(Sound effect - family shuffles into office – hear door close)*

Dr. Edmunds: Good afternoon, I'm Dr. Edmunds. *(they shake hands)*

Mario: Good afternoon.

Dr. Edmunds: *(to Ana in softer voice)* Hello beautiful! Let me look at you. *(to parents)* I asked you here today because, I'll be honest, I have some concerns about Ana. *(to Ana)* Let me look in those ears. *(to parents)* But I want to hear from you how you think she's doing. How is eating going now?

Lourdes: Well *(sighs)* not much better than last time. She's pretty fussy, cries a lot and doesn't seem to be gaining weight.

Dr. Edmunds: What about sleeping? Is she sleeping? Are you two sleeping?

Lourdes: Well...no. That's been hard. *(sound effect – Ana starts to cry again)* You don't think there's anything wrong with her *(hesitates)* do you?

Dr. Edmunds: That's what I wanted to talk to you about. *(pauses – chooses words carefully)* I'm afraid that Ana's prematurity may have resulted in something called Cerebral Palsy. I'm not sure...

Mario: *(interrupts – irritated)* What does that mean?

Dr. Edmunds: Well, I am not an expert on CP, but it sometimes happens with babies who are born early. It is a form of disability – it was no one's fault. There is a lot of help out there for children with CP. Children with disabilities live with their families, go to school, work, get married...

Lourdes: No, you must be mistaken. *(starting to panic)* She's smart. She's beautiful. She was a miracle. This cannot be!

Dr. Edmunds: (*comforting*) And you're right. She is smart and she is beautiful and I may be wrong about this diagnosis. But it's important to find this out early. No matter what the case, I would like to make a referral to Birth to 3 services. Ana should have help with her development and I would recommend seeing a Cerebral Palsy specialist as soon as possible – within the next two weeks...

(*Lourdes is crying softly in the background*)

Lourdes: (*softly*) My sweet, sweet baby...(*more composed – to the doctor*) What do we need to do?

Dr. Edmunds: I've had my nurse gather some materials on cerebral palsy. (*Sound effect – paper shuffle*) Mr. Chávez, here are some forms to sign – the referral to Birth to 3, and a release of medical information. I'm sorry, but I need these signed before we can do anything. Oh, and this is important – a release to bill your insurance. The last brochure is on Medical Assistance, also known as Medicaid – it will be important to know about that. (*pauses*) I'm sorry to give you all this at once. Most of it is in English, I hope that's o.k. Do you have any questions?

(*Sound effect – Ana starts to cry loudly now*)

Mario: (*rushing his words – can't get out of there fast enough*) Thank you, Doctor. I will have to look at the papers another time. Ana should be going home now. Thank you.

(*Sound effect – door closes*)

Lourdes: (*composing herself*) I'm sorry, Dr. Edmunds. I don't know what's wrong with my husband. I do have a few questions...

(*music fades up to transition to next part of scene*)

(*Sound effect – car door shuts – car starts – drives away*)  
(*time with no talking – hear car motor*)

Mario: (*angry - almost yelling*) That doctor is wrong about Ana! He gives us news like that and tells me to sign a bunch of papers? I tell you that doctor is wrong! And we don't need any help from anyone!

Lourdes: (*hesitates, trying to convince*) But...the doctor...the papers sounded important...that we should at least read them...I think we at least need to see that...who was it? Cerebral Palsy specialist?

Mario: (*firmly*) I will not sign those papers and that is that! Sunday we see your father – he will agree. (*almost shouting*) No more forms. No more doctors.

(*Sound effect – Ana is crying again from the backseat*)  
(*Music fades in and up – same music in each episode*)

Announcer: What can Mario's angry secret be? How will Lourdes' parents react to news about their youngest grandchild? Join us next week – same time – for the next edition of *Un Nuevo Amanecer para Ana y su Familia*.

(*Music fades up and out*)