

Episode 5: Finding Daycare

Settings: Chávez home
Characters: Announcer, Jose, Lourdes, Gabriela

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. Last week Mario, Ana's father, revealed he cannot read English and neglected to fill out important health insurance forms. As a result the family is facing mounting medical bills for Ana, who has a disability. Mario has agreed, against Lourdes' father's wishes, to get help. How will Grandfather Jose react? Where will the family get the money? Let's found out what happens next...

(Music transitions up and out)

Jose Narrates: *(speaking directly to the radio audience)* I do not understand how families work in this country. Does anyone listen to their elders anymore? Before I worked in the factory I was the head of this family. *(proudly)* Lourdes and her husband Mario listened to me...Then the accident...my leg in the conveyor...I thought – how can a man run a family...be respected...with a lifeless limb? And then...when Ana was born...I thought – what kind of life can a young girl have with this disability? I worried...But, of course, now I see, I was wrong...but I learned the hard way...

(Music fades up and out again)

Jose: *(angry – in the middle of an argument)* What, Lourdes? Your mother and I are not good enough to watch your children, now?

Lourdes: No, Papa, it's not that...it's just...it's just...you know that Ana is growing...she's getting heavier...and she's not walking. She may never walk on her own – you have to accept that. And, how can you lift her when I'm not here and Mama's gone to work? Papa, I don't want you to fall and get hurt again...

Jose: *(proudly, sternly)* I am still her grandfather.

Lourdes: Papa, if I didn't have to go back to work, I wouldn't, but we already can't afford the hospital bills. We still have bills from your accident. We are waiting to see if we can get Medicaid for Ana and then, with my new job, perhaps things will be better.

Jose: *(upset)* What is this Medicaid?...this...Birth-to-3...she gets every week...Strangers coming in and out of your house! Who ever thought this family would have to ask for help from strangers!

Lourdes: Papa, it's what's best for Ana. I like these people. You will see. Look how she's grown! No more seizures...The medicines are helping. The therapy is helping.

(Music fades up and out again to transition to a new scene)

(Sound effect - phone rings)

Lourdes: Hello? Yes, this is Mrs. Chávez. *(pauses to listen to someone on other end)* I know... but...but, she hasn't even started yet. You just met her yesterday! How can you say she can't come? *(pause as she listens to something on other end – then defeated.)* O.K. then. Goodbye.

(Sound effect - knock at door)

Gabriela: *(shouts out to whomever will hear)* Hello! I brought treats for my godchild! *(to Lourdes)* Oh, and you too, my friend. *(pauses as she sees Lourdes' face – then concerned)* Comadre, what's wrong?

Lourdes: *(holding back tears)* I just got off the phone with the daycare...They won't take Ana...It's the third daycare I've tried, Gabriela!...When I call they tell me they have a spot open...and then...when they meet Ana...when they see her...They say they aren't equipped to handle her needs. They say she needs a one-on-one aide and we...can't afford that. I start work on Monday, what am I going to do? I have to go to work – we need the money!

Gabriela: What about the Daycare on Blount Street? I thought she stayed there a few days last week while you were on interviews?

Lourdes: Yes, but when I picked her up, the other children were staring at her...calling her names. The teachers just stood back and watched. *(pauses, emphatic)* She is a human being, Gabriela. Those people know nothing about disabilities! *(pause, starting to weep)* I didn't know it was going to be this hard...She needs to be with other children so she can learn from them...and them from her.

Gabriela: Shh...Lourdes. *(calming)* Didn't you say Ana's Birth to 3 teacher told you they could come to the daycare to help teach them how to take care of Ana? I thought you said that.

Lourdes: Yes...

Gabriela: Well, how about if I take Ana for the first few weeks while you start your new job at the restaurant. You can show me how to care for Ana.

Lourdes: *(relieved and excited)* Oh, Gabriela – would you? Could you? Even with Maria and baby Rosa to care for?

Gabriela: Yes, I will try. Ana will learn from her cousins, too. I am sure of it!

Lourdes: How can I thank you? *(hug)*

(Sound effect – knock at door)

Jose: *(sounding cheerful)* Hello, everyone – good news!

Jose: I just got a call from your cousin Carlos...he's on his way from Mexico...we'll tell Mario tonight...I've decided...he's going to stay here...with us.

Lourdes: *(hesitates, worried)* But...but...Papa...Carlos...he's trouble! How? We can't afford...

Jose: *(authoritative)* Enough. He's family. He stays. That's final.

(Music fades in and up – same music in each episode)

Announcer: Who is Carlos and what will his addition to the family mean? Will Jose soften toward his family and begin to accept Ana the way she is? Join us next week – same time – for the next edition of *Un Nuevo Amanecer para Ana y su Familia*.

(Music fades up and out)