

Update on the story of Lily, June 2009

Written by her mother Sylvia

Almost two years have passed since I wrote Lily's story and I am happy to tell you that Lily is progressing extremely well.

The year 2007-2008 was a difficult one for us, with Lily's behaviour getting worse (stealing and lying), her self esteem diminished (as well as our patience).

A bad time for our family. So we took a few drastic steps. Bearing in mind that we believe that a healthy self esteem is key to success in life, we decided to first tackle the academic aspect.

We sent Lily to an intensive study boarding school for one month (out on weekends, though!), where there is a teacher for every 3 kids who coaches them for 10 hours a day! She did really well, saw her name associated with good grades for the first time in her life and enjoyed the strict and rigorous structure of the place. Later that summer she spent 2 weeks at horse riding day camp, where we discovered she is a natural rider. Discovering her passion for horses has been a very positive thing; we can use the lessons as rewards for effort, and this has helped to encourage her even more. So the school year began with Lily believing she could do well, and weekly horse riding lessons, added to her volleyball training twice a week.



Thanks to the report from the geneticist on her Triple X syndrome, I managed to obtain her "curricular adaptation" (an adapted approach to her learning experience and support teachers for main subjects). This adapted level and change of approach has lifted the pressure off Lily, and has resulted in a much greater effort on her part in her schoolwork. A solid self confidence base has been built this year, and it has encouraged her to continue working hard to succeed, believing that -indeed- she can. Furthermore, a month ago she and her volleyball team won the inter-school volleyball championship of Mallorca, which served to increase her self confidence even more. She is on no medication whatsoever, sees the wonderful post-adoption service psychologist once a month and is healthy and happy.

When we went to visit the geneticist we explained the reason why to her. She calls it having 'three crosses' and does not think much about it. The other day she asked me whether I thought her biological parents were tall, as she is tall herself: I replied that I did not think so, as her biological parents are Mapuche Indians who are quite short, but that she could thank the "three crosses" for her height. So she actually views her condition as something positive.

I have read with interest in the *Triple X syndrome: a review* published recently in the European Journal of Human Genetics that Triple X girls seem to have more problems than most in forming stable interpersonal relationships. I have observed this with Lily and her peers; she has friends, but no truly close ones. I cannot ascertain whether this is due to triple X, Lily's age or just her personality. In any event, she loves her own company and this seems not to be an issue at the moment.

She is 12 tomorrow and is growing into a most stunningly beautiful young lady. The only behaviour problems we seem to have are typically pre-teen tantrums and hormonal upheaval reactions...which are normal at her age.

She is loving, very well-mannered, kind, with an intense passion for animals and small children and, most of all, happy and healthy.