

Module: **Communication and Emergent Literacy:
Early Intervention Issues**

Session 1: Overview of Communication and Literacy

Activity B: Communicative Contexts in a Case Story

Participant Guidelines

The purposes of this assignment are to

- determine the communicative, situational, and sociocultural contexts of communication and literacy using a case story; and
- determine how visual impairments may influence these communicative contexts.

Directions

1. Read “Case Story: Viridiana,” and answer the questions provided below in writing and turn them in to your instructor.
2. After completing the questions, share your answers with the instructor and the other participants in small groups, as a class, or via an online discussion.

Case Story: Viridiana

Maria smiles as she browns the hamburger in the skillet in preparation for her family’s dinner. Juanita, Maria’s mother-in-law, is taking the rest of the dinner ingredients out of the refrigerator and the pantry. Roberto, Maria’s husband, has just arrived home from his job at the university and is playing with their four children in the living room. The three older children have abandoned their homework to climb on their father on the floor, laughing and screaming as they play. Maria and Roberto’s youngest child, Viridiana, is sitting against the couch tilting her head and watching the activity. The children’s homework is lying next to Viridiana.

Roberto crawls across the floor towards Viridiana with his 6-year-old son still clinging to his back. “Viridiana, Viridiana,” Roberto calls in a teasing voice, “I’m coming to get you.” Viridiana smiles and giggles. Roberto reaches his daughter and begins to tickle her belly. Viridiana laughs and squirms then reaches out to her father. Roberto picks Viridiana up and tosses her into the air. “That’s my big girl. Did you have a good day today?” Leaning very close to her father’s face, Viridiana reaches out her right hand and strokes her father’s mustache. “Down you go,” he says as he plops her onto the couch. Viridiana rolls to the edge of the couch and slides carefully to the floor. She crawls toward her brothers and sisters, who are all talking at once as they tell Roberto about their day. Viridiana’s 9-year-old sister picks her up and cuddles her gently as they all move towards the kitchen for dinner.

Participant Questions

1. What is the communicative context? The situational context? The sociocultural context?
2. How do the three contexts influence the interaction?
3. Viridiana has low vision. How might this influence the communication?