

**ALTA CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CENTER
SOCIAL ASSESSMENT**

APPLICANT NAME: Kaleb Xiong

AGE: 3 years, 8 months

DOB: 3/13/2020

UCI #: 8328040

INTERVIEW DATE: 11/21/2023

INTAKE SPECIALIST: Jessica Fox, M.S.

Suspected Area(s) of Disability:

Intellectual Disability/“Fifth Category” Cerebral Palsy Epilepsy Autism

REASON FOR REFERRAL

Kaleb Xiong was referred to Alta California Regional Center (ACRC) by his biological father, Yang Xiong. Kaleb is not previously known to the regional center system and is to be assessed due to concerns related to learning and cognitive skills as well as social communication concerns and behavioral difficulties. If it is found that Kaleb is eligible to receive services from ACRC, him and his family would be interested in general case management, respite, and independent living skills.

OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS

This worker met with Kaleb Xiong and his biological parents, Yang and Mary Xiong, in-person at the Sacramento office to conduct the social assessment. The meeting was held on 11/21/2023 at 1:00pm. Kaleb and his family’s primary language is English, and the social assessment interview was conducted in English with no interpreter needed. Information included in this report was gathered from the interview with Kaleb and his parents, observations of Kaleb during the social assessment, and a review of documents that were submitted to the regional center.

Kaleb is a 3-year, 8-month-old male of Hmong descent that is approximately 48 inches tall and weighs 28lbs, 9oz. Kaleb appeared to have brown eyes and short black hair. He appeared to be his stated age and he was clean, well-groomed, and dressed appropriately for his age and the weather. At the time of the interview, Kaleb was wearing a gray long-sleeved shirt, black sweatpants, and blue Nike shoes on his feet. Initially, when this writer went out to the lobby of the Sacramento office to greet Kaleb and his parents, he was playing with the toys. Kaleb was observed to not say anything to this writer in the beginning, and he appeared to use his hands on the walls to “track” where he was going throughout the office while walking. Once in the interview room, Kaleb appeared to be alert and curious as to what was around him in this new setting and he had a flat affect. Kaleb was observed to spend his time in the interview room playing with the toys on the ground, sitting on his mother’s lap as if he was tired and going to fall asleep, and playing at the kid’s table with the puzzles. This writer observed Kaleb to engage in many body movements, such as spinning around in a circle, jumping up and down, placing toys into his mouth/against his face, fidgeting with his hands, and plugging his ears. Kaleb also appeared to explore around the room by feeling the walls with his hands to help direct himself. When Kaleb spoke, it appeared to be in a low tone of voice, and he was observed to only speak in single-words or short 1-2-word phrases. He was observed to say the words “big” and “small”

while holding onto toys in his hands, “circle,” “I’m three,” “Kaleb,” “no,” “cars,” and “puzzles.” He also appeared to hold onto *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* book while saying “caterpillar” in a quiet tone of voice, and “turn the page” as he was reciting the words. At the end of the social assessment when this writer said “bye” to Kaleb, he did not appear to verbally say anything in return as he was leaving.

FAMILY INFORMATION

Kaleb was born in Sacramento, CA and he currently resides in Elk Grove, CA with his biological father, biological mother, five sisters (22, 21, 19, 18, 11) and two brothers (14, 1). It was reported that Kaleb’s primary language is English, but he is also exposed to Hmong while in the home by his parents and he can say his name in Hmong with prompting. Kaleb’s father, Yang Xiong (50), currently works as an Administrative Services Officer. Father reportedly does not receive any SSI/Disability Benefits. Kaleb’s mother, Mary Xiong (43), is currently a stay-at-home mother. Mother reported that she does not receive any SSI/Disability Benefits. It was indicated that Kaleb has received Social Security Benefits since 9/25/2020, and he currently has 6 hours per month of transfer for In-Home Support Services (IHSS). No record of any major family events/changes, losses, or involvement with Child Protective Services (CPS) was mentioned during the interview.

BEHAVIOR CONCERNS

Kaleb’s parents described him as being a “routine kid” and shared that if there is a change in his routine then he will not want to transition to the next task. Kaleb reportedly will show a “big reaction” towards pain when he gets hurt. Parents explained that if they do not happen to see what occurred when Kaleb got hurt, then he will say “ow” but will not share with them what happened. It was indicated that Kaleb tends to be overactive while in the home and appears to have a lot of energy. Parents mentioned that Kaleb will show the daily repetitive behaviors of twirling, jumping, making finger motions (such as flicking and tapping his fingers), always having a toy in his hands, and placing objects into his mouth. Per parents, Kaleb does not understand social cues due to his vision impairment, and they shared that he mostly would use his hands and his hearing when interacting with others. Mother stated that Kaleb seems to become overly interested and attached to certain toys, and that he will take them everywhere with him. She explained that Kaleb is obsessed with squishy toys, and that it “gives confidence when he’s nervous” and seems to make him feel “calm” when he is holding them. It was reported that Kaleb can be affectionate towards certain people that he is comfortable with, such as his mother, but that he normally does not want to be around others. According to parents, Kaleb does not appear to bolt/wander while his is out in public. Parents expressed that Kaleb would drag them around and cling onto them, especially in new environments, because he may get “scared” of the sounds surrounding him. Per parents, Kaleb will engage in “meltdowns,” and he shows challenges with expressing himself. For example, parents shared that if Kaleb loses a toy and cannot find it, then he will become frustrated and begin to hit himself and headbang. Parents shared that this is a daily behavior that occurs when Kaleb is upset while at home. It was also reported that Kaleb will engage in “vocal stemming,” and he makes “swallowing noises” when he appears to be nervous.

Sensory: It was reported that Kaleb will show auditory sensitivity, and he will plug his ears when he is in a noisy environment. Kaleb reportedly has oral texture issues when eating, and he does not enjoy mushy or slimy food textures. Parents explained that Kaleb seems to prefer dry or crunchy food items such as cookies and chips. It was indicated that Kaleb is used to wearing shorts and tends to roll up his pants and shirts when wearing them. Kaleb is reported to show vestibular (movement) issues and enjoys the feeling of swinging and spinning around in a circle. Parents mentioned that Kaleb will show proprioceptive (pressure) issues and said that he likes to cuddle with his mother while she holds onto his feet.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONING

It was reported by Kaleb's parents that he mostly plays by himself, and that he has no interest in socializing or playing with others. Kaleb's teacher reported to his parents that he has not been able to learn how to make friends while he is in the classroom. Parents indicated that while Kaleb is at home, he does not like to play with his brothers, and he does not go on any playdates. Kaleb reportedly does not participate in any group activities or sports outside of the home. Per Kaleb's parents, they mentioned that while he is at home his hobbies/interests include playing with "little" toys/figures and playing with any object that makes noise (such as the V-Tech toys).

EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Kaleb's mother reported that she was 40 years old when he was born. She stated that she did receive prenatal care from the beginning of her pregnancy, and that there was no exposure to illicit or toxic substances while she was pregnant. Mother shared that she did not experience any infections or injuries during her pregnancy, and that she was not prescribed to take medication. She recalled that during her labor, her placenta ruptured, causing her to have an emergency c-section. Kaleb was reportedly born full-term at 38 weeks, and he weighed 6lbs, 12oz. Mother expressed that there were no significant postnatal complications after having Kaleb, or when they went home from the hospital.

Developmental Milestones: Mother recalled that Kaleb was 5 to 6 months old when he started sitting up without support, began crawling at 7 to 8 months old, and that he walked at around 11 months old. It was at around 1 year old when Kaleb began to speak his first words, and parents stated that he started to speak in 2-word phrases by 1 ½ years old. Per parents, Kaleb is not currently toilet trained. Regarding periods of significant regression or loss of skills, parents mentioned that they noticed a change in Kaleb's communication and learning abilities. Kaleb's parents explained how they believed that Kaleb was doing well with his speech at first, but then noticed that he would only speak in echolalia and that he did not understand the meaning to the words he was saying. His parents also mentioned that in the initial stages, Kaleb was learning and "absorbing" information, but as time went on, he appeared to not understand concepts or respond to what was being asked. For example, they shared that when they would ask Kaleb his name, he would sometimes respond correctly and at other times he would mix up his answer. According to parents, Kaleb also used to be interested in the piano, and he memorized the tone to the *Baby Shark* song but has now stopped playing the piano within the past year. Parents believe

that Kaleb is not progressing and is not in the same age group as his peer with some of his learning skills. They also indicated that Kaleb's younger brother (1), has seemed to notice more information and skills in his developmental milestones than Kaleb has. It was reported that Kaleb struggles with some of his fine motor skills (such as holding a pencil), and parents said that there appears to be a "delay" in his gross motor skills as well.

MEDICAL HISTORY

Health Insurance: Kaiser Permanente (Medi-Cal)

Current Medications: None

Primary Care Physician: Dr. Stephanie Yee-Guardino, M.D. at Kaiser Permanente

Kaleb is reported to be a healthy child, although his parents did share their concerns for his eating habits. According to parents, Kaleb has never had any significant illnesses or injuries, hospitalizations, signs of seizures, chronic ear infections, allergies, or asthma difficulties. It was reported that Kaleb has had numerous surgeries for his eyes, starting at 3 months old, and that he currently visits an ophthalmologist in Roseville, CA every six months. Noted in Kaleb's IEP from 4/17/2023, it stated that he had a hearing test initiated but they were unable to evaluate him "due to student refusal". Parents mentioned during the social assessment that they do not have any concerns for Kaleb regarding his hearing. Per records, Kaleb has a congenital eye defect in both eyes and is "legally blind." Records mentioned that Kaleb is currently under the care of an eye specialist, and that he has "history persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous (PHPV) and bilateral retinal detachment with no light perception in either eye." Regarding Kaleb's eating patterns, parents reported that his favorite foods to eat are rice, meat, broth, and grapes. Kaleb reportedly struggles with sleeping, and his parents shared that he is "always" up every night and will sometimes wake up crying due to having a "night terror." Parents indicated that Kaleb would go to sleep at around 2:00am to 3:00am and wake up in the morning at 7:00am on school days. It was reported that Kaleb does not show concerns for PICA, but he will often try to put items and toys into his mouth. Per parents, Kaleb has not had any genetic testing completed and he has not gone to the dentist. Kaleb reportedly goes to the doctor's office annually for a check-up. Parents stated that there is a family history of developmental disabilities. They shared that there are maternal and paternal family members that are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, and that Kaleb's oldest sister had an IEP in school due to auditory processing disorder.

PSYCHIATRIC HISTORY

None reported.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Current Grade: Preschool

Current IEP Classification(s): Visual Impairment (VI) and Speech or Language Impairment (SLI)

Current IEP Date: 5/9/2023

Kaleb is currently enrolled at Foulks Ranch Elementary School in Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD), and he is in preschool. Father stated that Kaleb did not receive any Early Intervention (EI) services, but that he attended an Infant Development Program through the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) prior to entering EGUSD. It was reported that Kaleb began special education services when he was in preschool, and that through his Individualized Education Program (IEP) he receives specialized vision services (120 min/weekly), orientation and mobility services (40 min/weekly), and individual and small group instruction. Per parents, Kaleb receives speech therapy through his school, and he is also currently in the Intake process through Kaiser Permanente for speech services. Kaleb reportedly has not received any occupational therapy (OT) or applied behavior analysis (ABA) services.

LEGAL ISSUES

None reported.

ADAPTIVE SKILL DOMAINS

Self-Care

Kaleb's parents reported that he is unable to dress himself, manipulate fasteners, or choose his own clothing to wear independently and that he needs assistance when completing these tasks. It was indicated that Kaleb does not use utensils to eat, and that he prefers to eat with his hands instead. Per parents, Kaleb needs assistance with the grooming/hygiene tasks of washing hands, brushing teeth, and taking a bath/shower. Kaleb reportedly is not currently toilet trained.

Receptive and Expressive Language

It was reported and observed that Kaleb can speak in single-words and short phrases (1-2-words). Parents mentioned that Kaleb engages in echolalia, and that it is sometimes difficult for others to understand him when he is speaking. They also reported that self-expression is challenging for Kaleb, and that he does not know how to use "yes" and "no" in certain situations. Per parents, Kaleb struggles with participating in conversations with others, and he often does not ask questions or respond appropriately. They noted that he will show the atypical speech patterns of mumbling and babbling. It was indicated that Kaleb does need information to be rephrased to a simpler level to enhance his understanding, and that he can follow 1-step directions with prompting. Kaleb reportedly does not make gestures when interacting with others, and he will sometimes make facial expressions (such as smiling instead of saying "yes").

Learning

It was observed during the interview that Kaleb can correctly point to body parts, and he knows his age. Parents reported that Kaleb only knows shapes and colors by name. When this writer asked Kaleb to recite the alphabet, he said "no" and then plugged his ears. According to Kaleb's parents, they said that he used to know how to recite the alphabet when he was around 1 year old and would do "well" with it. Now, his parents mentioned that the alphabet is "hit and miss" for Kaleb and that he will sometimes skip letters or need to "mimic" toys to help him recite it. During the interview, Kaleb was observed to quietly count numbers 1-20, but he would

skip numbers as he was reciting it. When this writer asked Kaleb if he could spell his name, he said "Kaleb." Parents then reported that Kaleb cannot spell out his name independently. It was reported by parents that Kaleb can count to one hundred, but he needs assistance with clues and patterns from them. Kaleb's parents stated that tasks do need to be broken down into simple steps to aide in his learning of a new task/subject.

Mobility

Due to Kaleb's vision impairment, parents reported that when he is at school, he uses a cane to help with mobility and has a one-on-one paraeducator. Parents also mentioned that Kaleb will "trail" the walls whenever he is in a new space or environment.

Self-Direction

According to parents, Kaleb will self-initiate some tasks such as requesting food items (chips and cookies) when he is hungry. Parents mentioned that Kaleb does not choose his own clothing to wear, and that he does appear to have trouble with adapting to change easily. Regarding safety concerns while in the home, parents mentioned that Kaleb tends to feel all around the counters for objects. They stated that if Kaleb does not like something, then he will toss it over, and that he has spilt hot tea over onto the table. Parents recalled that Kaleb has ran towards the hot stove, that he enjoys touching toilet water, has tried to climb into the bathtub with his clothes on, and will place any object into his mouth. Kaleb's parents shared their concerns for his safety and mentioned that he is "not able to orient himself or know if he is in danger." Per parents, Kaleb has no sense of fear or danger, and they believe that he does not have any safety awareness with strangers. Mother stated that if someone were to try to give Kaleb something, then he would try to go off with others that he does not know. It was reported that Kaleb will engage in self-injurious behaviors (such as hitting himself and headbanging) when he is upset. Parents mentioned that Kaleb does not show difficulty coping with fears, anxieties, and frustrations but said that it tends to take a while for him to "setting himself" in new environments.

Capacity for Independent Living

Not applicable due to age.

Economic Self-Sufficiency

Not applicable due to age.

A determination of eligibility for Regional Center services will be decided after a comprehensive case review by the ACRC multidisciplinary Eligibility Review Team.

Jessica Fox

Jessica Fox, M.S.
Intake Specialist