

## **The Sweet Case**

Oh So Sweet is an 18 year old, Asian, ESE student who has a specific learning disability (math). Her date of birth is 12/18/99 and her student identification number (FSI) is 0600010000. Oh So is in the 12th grade and on a standard diploma track. She hopes to graduate this year.

Oh So lives with her father, Never Sweet, her step-mother, Not So Sweet, and 4 siblings at 1007 NW 77 St., Meany, FL 00707. She is the oldest of the children and is expected to help out a lot around the home. She occasionally visits her mother, Ex Sweet.

At ESE reviews and parent conferences, Mr. and Mrs. Sweet complain about Oh So's failure to follow directions properly and that she doesn't come back from the grocery store with all of the items on her list or the right change. Oh So's mother never attends these meetings, although she is invited. The ESE family counselor is working with Oh So and her family to address their concerns and improve parental understanding of Oh So's disability and its implications for her task performance. The parents seem to feel shamed by Oh So's learning disability, and think that it reflects poorly on them. Teachers have focused on communicating Oh So's positive academic and social/behavioral achievements to her family.

Oh So has reported being called demeaning names in Chinese by her stepmother and being verbally threatened by her biological mother. The family counselor is also working on this concern.

Today, Oh So reported to one of her teachers that last night she was setting the table for dinner and Not So Sweet didn't like how it was being done. The stepmother started yelling at Oh So and then called for her father to come. Never Sweet sharply said "You better get it right!" He grabbed her by the hair, hit her in the face, and banged her head against the wall. Other extended family members were in the kitchen, but no one said anything or did anything to stop him.