



Her parents named her Estrella, which means 'star' and she is a little star!

She is only five-years old, and she smiles, laughs and knows about a dozen or so words of English. She was born premature, at six-months. Her lungs were not fully developed at birth and she was born blind. She remained in the hospital for month and when her parents took her home they only knew that their daughter was born with lung problems, but was now going home. As time passed, they realized that she was blind.

Doctors said this was also the result of the premature birth and that there may also be some mental developmental problems.

The little girl kept smiling, laughing, talking and singing. She sat close to me and counted to 10 in English. She sang songs in Spanish, but every once in a while, she would sing a few words in English. She liked to sing. She also liked applause. If we did not clap, she would laugh and say, "Applause! Applause!" (Yes, her name means 'star' and she really is a star!)

Her mother was also full of smiles. Her husband works in a factory, bringing home \$60 a week. She has one other child, a 7-year old boy. Yet, this woman is happy and constantly smiling.

You probably know of at least one person that would complain if they won the lottery. I guess we've all met people like that. They wallow in self-pity and live to complain. This mother of a blind child is the exact opposite. She is happy and finds many things to be happy about.

The most difficult part of my day was leaving this little girl. I promised to return in two weeks. I did this because I am selfish and cannot wait to see her again and to applaud when she sings.