**Parent Perspective: Kari Harbath Part 3 Descriptive Transcript**

**[Visual Description]** A baby who is deafblind sits on a cushion and smiles. She has a tracheostomy tube.

**[On-Screen Text]** Parent Perspective: Kari Harbath
Sloan’s MomBuilding Confidence During Early Intervention

**Kari Harbath:** You just go from having this baby that you think like, okay, I need to feed the child and change the diapers. And you know you're prepared for all the typical stuff. And then suddenly you're under like the glaring lights of the hospital. And they're changing, you know she has a trach, and so like you're changing a newborn's airway that they're just reliant on.

And if you don't do it in a certain amount of time, they die. And I just remember thinking, like I can't do that. I did not sign up for this, and I cannot do this. And so many people at the time said, you can, and you will. And I didn't believe it.

And I think that it's those people along the way, whether you know it was the medical people in the hospital, the nurses and the staff that trained us on the medical stuff that said like, you can do this, and you will, and it will become old hat. And they eventually were right.

Or the interventionists and the people along the way that would come in and say, hey, you know, like you know Sloan best. And I think a lot of those conversations have instilled a lot of confidence. So, when people come into the house, I know the right person has entered the door when they immediately say like, tell me about Sloan.

And I want to know, because you know Sloan best, about Sloan, her personality, what she likes, what's interesting to her. You know it's going back to the trope of like the sweet, special, angelic baby.

I've always struggled a little bit when someone walks in, and immediately just takes Sloan as having a certain personality or a certain, you know energy because of her disabilities, because of, you know the life she's been given, when that's not Sloan's energy at all.

And, and I've been fortunate to have so many interventionists along the way that have reinforced that. And they said, okay, we know Sloan, we know Sloan won't do this. You know, they've been with me as we joked about Sloan, and we've been like, okay, there's no way we're gonna get Sloan to do any of this stuff. Let's take it out.

You know, like there's just, there's been so many moments where I think interventionists and staff have, have built confidence. So, really, it's the support system, I think that makes all the difference.

**[Visual Description]** A baby who is deafblind sits on a cushion and smiles. She has a tracheostomy tube.

**[On Screen text]**
National Center on Deaf-Blindness
nationaldb.org
The contents of this video program were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H326T230030. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Susan Weigert.
 © 2023 National Center on Deaf-Blindness