

## MARC (and Mommy &amp; Daddy) MATOS

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Shhhhh, Mommy and Daddy are all tucked in their bed and the kitties are sleeping – finally I get some peace and quiet! Now that everyone else is asleep I can sneak over to the computer and get this written in time for Christmas! If Daddy doesn't mail it in time it's not my fault – I did my part!

It's been it's been an eventful year for me! It started off with a crawl and ended with me running, climbing and hanging from stuff. It's been a year of changes for me and Mommy and Daddy, but we're having a great time. Here goes, year two...

Mommy is still teaching at Clayton State. She even got to teach Calculus 1 and 2 this year. I help her with her lectures and especially with her grading. She took the summer off (except for taking classes towards a Math Masters and helping the search committee find some new professors) and we had a lot of fun! We went swimming and for walks and to the playground! I'm very lucky to have such a great Mommy!

Daddy has been doing the same thing at Georgia EPD for a long time now – I guess he enjoys the people there! He and I have a lot of fun running around the house, yelling at the top of our lungs and rolling around on the floor. I love to pull the little bits of hair that are left on top of his head and play "Hop on Pop". He's been a really great Daddy!

My brothers and sister are doing a lot better with me this year. Freya is still a little scared of me (and other small people), but Loki has started to play Chase with me – sometimes I chase him around the kitchen and sometimes he chases me! When Tyr isn't stealing and eating my socks we create chaos together, and when we're done sometimes he sleeps with me (or on me)!

My Grandparents (Matos) are still living in Augusta and doing well. They are absolutely giddy when they are around me! They visit me about once a month and we do fun things like go to the Zoo or the Aquarium or just hang out and play around the house. Grandpa Dave "retired" from Savannah River last month and now does the same thing on his own time, out of the house – a "contractor" is what they call him. My other Grandparents (Moseley's) moved to Greensboro, GA earlier this year. Where's Greensboro, Ga you say? It's far away, to a toddler at least (Lake Oconee). Suzie, Uncle Jason and Cousin Ben are all doing well. Uncle Jason got a new lawyer job that lets him be home more often so he wrangles Ben and I up when we're reeking havoc at their house. Uncle Mike is managing a O'Charley's restaurant just a few minutes from our house so he comes to visit me a lot – he's so much fun!! Mommy's Grandma (Ramey) passed away this year, I'm glad I got to go visit her a few more times and entertain (terrorize) the people at the assisted living facility.

Ok, enough about everyone else, back to me! I started off the year with 3 ear infections and no sleep for 3 months. In March I got ear tubes put in- it took all of 15 minutes and that did the trick, all better! At 10 ½ months I started walking and a few days later I figured out how to run... I haven't looked back since. (Dad's note: sorry about all the pictures of the back of his head – that's all we see a lot of times). In April I had to get a helmet – my head was all flat in the back – it was nifty and had spaceships on it and it let me run into things and it didn't hurt. Now my head is round and the helmet is gone and sometimes I miss it when I run into something real fast – sometimes a helmet is good! In May, we had a big birthday party for me—we ate a bear (cake)! and played Hold'em (what more could a 1 year old ask for?). We went to the shark-infested beaches of the Gulf Coast this summer – I didn't really like the sand at first, but I loved the ocean waves. After I figured what fun you can have with sand, I had a really fun time.

Apparently I'm still growing like kudzu – I'm tall for my age (~90 %ile), but I'm still skinny (~40 %ile). I know a lot of words (in both verbal and sign language). Right now I really love "cars" and "busses"! I get real excited when I see a bus (Dad note: or a van, or a UPS truck, or a train – but they're all cars and busses to Marc). Around 18 months I heard someone mention that my "Terrible Twos" were coming up, so I did what any responsible 18 month old would do – I "Googled" it and figured out what they were. I then promptly started them – Mommy and Daddy have their hands full! I'm very good at throwing temper tantrums, but somehow I still don't (usually) get what I want! I have all my teeth now (my 2 year molars are working their way in) and boy is it fun to bite stuff (and hear Mommy and Daddy scream!). I love to throw stuff (and I'm pretty accurate) and I enjoy dancing (especially to the TV theme song, Las Vegas is my favorite!).

In September and October I went to my first Braves game (with Uncle Mike) and my first real-live hockey game! I had so much fun at both. I love to cheer and dance and entertain the other people at the game! I get to go to several Thrashers games a month now and I really have a great time. The people in our section have taken to me since I love to yell "Go!" and Clap and Cheer! I've even got to run around the floor of the Arena, sit in the penalty box (I guess that is what Time-out will be like later) and meet some players! All in all, it's been a really fun year for me (and a hectic one for Mommy and Daddy, I'm really a handful!). Late this year I began "reading", I like to sit on the couch or Mommy or Daddy's lap with a book and flip through them – it's the only time I sit still (sometimes it lasts 5 or 10 whole minutes). I love Good Night, Gorilla!

Oh oh, I hear jingling bells and hoof steps on the roof. I think I better get into bed before the big guy catches me – I don't need any more "naughties" – I'm already pushing it with several "incidents" this year. I guess that's all for now, please check out my website, send me an e-mail, give Mommy and Daddy a call or just drop by! I'd love to see you! My best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year,

Love, Marc (...and Mommy and Daddy and Loki and Freya and Tyr)