

MARC (and Mommy & Daddy) MATOS

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OK, here goes... Mommy and Daddy finally tucked out and the kitties are sleeping. I finally get a little peace and quiet and no one is telling me what to do (or not do)! 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 me running, climbing and hanging from stuff and ended with me running, climbing and hanging from stuff and changes for me and Mommy and Daddy, but we're having a great time. Here goes, year three... It's been another year of

Mommy is still teaching at Clayton State. She even got to teach a brand new Numerical Methods Class and earned a grant to implement (there's another big word,) some new teaching techniques (an another one, see!) in her Classroom. I help her with her lectures and especially Kangaroo Kids alot! She took the summer off and we had even more fun! She also signed me up for gymnastics Class and I love the balance beam and trampoline (Daddy note: You can see where this is going already) I'm very lucky to have such a great Mommy!

Daddy has been doing the same thing at Georgia EPD for an even longer 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 ride on his shoulders everywhere and pull the little bits of hair that are left on top of his head out. He's been a really great Daddy!

My brothers and sister are having a lot of fun together now. Freya is still a little scared of me but Loki and I play chase around the kitchen all the time. Tyr has mostly stopped eating my socks and started trying to sleep with me!

Grandma and Pop Matos still live in Augusta and are 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 riding my bike or "playing" Scrabble. Pop Dave is traveling more now that he is a "retired contractor" working out of the house. Grandma and Granddaddy Moseley are settling in nicely at Reynold's Plantation. Grandma Moseley has been battling Ovarian Cancer for the last few months and has some of the best doctors Emory can offer, her last checkup was great and her prognosis (another big word!) is really good! Suzie, Uncle Jason and cousin Ben are all doing well. Ben is getting a puppy for Christmas (or at least that is what Santa told him!) I go up and see him and his doggies fairly often, so we can wreak havoc at their house. Uncle Mike is still managing an O'Charley's restaurant just a few minutes from our house, so he comes to visit me a lot - he and his new convertible are so much fun!!

Ok, enough about everyone else, back to me! The ear tubes are working their magic and I haven't had any infections all year! I threw my paci (fier) in the trash one day in May because Daddy told me I could only use it on the couch. I have fond memories of paci, but staying still on the couch was too much to ask! Thanks to my gymnastics skills I have learned a lot of new stunts: I climb to the top of my Cozy Coupe Car and jump off (Daddy note: There's video on the website), I like dangling from the monkey bars and practicing my balancing skills on furniture. I like to run fast, jump high and injure myself slightly at least 6 times a day. "I'm all boy" or at least that's what I hear all the time.

I'm still growing like kudzu (a local indigenous vine)- I'm still tall for my age (38 1/3 inches, ~90 %ile), and I'm still skinny (32 lbs, ~50 %ile). I guess there are worse things than being tall, skinny and blonde with a permanent tan ;) I know a lot of words (some of them big, as you have seen) and I am talking up a storm. I know my ABC's and can count to 14 (I am trying to get to 28 so the Thrasher's Hossa doesn't feel left out). I can also tell you how many cars, trains, zambonis (or other things I'm obsessed with) there are up to 5 without actually counting them. I've even mostly memorized 3 or 4 books. Daddy says I'm "definitely smarter than a monkey". I'm perfecting my ability to throw temper tantrums, but somehow I still don't (usually) get what I want! While I'm generally eager to please Mommy and Daddy, I am definitely not afraid to tell them "NO", but neither are they. Sometimes I think Mommy is Italian, too.

In May, Daddy and Pop built me a fantastic* swingset for my birthday and we had a big outside party with lots of family and friends to break it in. We all had fun on the Slip-n-Slide. I regularly watch the Thrashers and even have my own seat at the Arena. I love to cheer and generally entertain the other people at the games! In October I even got to skate (well sort of skate, it was my first time and I am only 2 1/2) on the ice at Philips Arena. It was so much fun (Daddy note: and work for us, but still really cool!). For Halloween I went as my favorite pajama character - Pirate Puppy! I still try to hit the zoo and the Aquarium every other month or so and I have so much fun looking at the animals and the 'bage! whales' (I know they're beluga whales, but everyone thinks it's so cute when I call them bage! whales). Occasionally I'll sit still for a little while to catch a few minutes of 'Nemo' or 'Big Bird', but I mostly like 'Mythbusters' (Daddy note: It's cute that he likes it, but it kind of scares me - he even has an "I do all my own stunts" shirt). I'm still working on potty training (I'll just leave it at that). All in all, it's been a really fun year for me (and a hectic one for Mommy and Daddy, he's really a handful).

Uh 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)



* Big word!