

— IPHER —

Interprofessional Health Education and Research

The Case of Patricia Walker

The MotherReach Drop-In Program is part of an outreach program that provides primary healthcare services to an underserved area of London, Ontario. The team is led by an experienced Nurse Practitioner. It offers programs including Teen Talk for teen parents, MotherReach Drop-In, Women's Wellness, parenting classes, and infant and toddler play groups for parents and their children.

Patricia Walker is a 30 year old woman who recently gave birth to a son (Evan), now 2 months old. She has a husband, John, who works full-time as a welder. He does not use drugs or abuse alcohol, although there is a history of alcoholism on his paternal side. Patricia also has a daughter, Amelia, who is 2 ½ years old.

Until her maternity leave, Patricia worked part-time as a receptionist at a bank. She used day care on occasion, but has a family friend that was willing to take care of Amelia when her husband was not home. The family rents a house that is barely affordable at present, and with the threat of John losing his job, they may not be able to stay there anymore.

Patricia comes into the MotherReach Drop-in Program for the first time, because she had heard a bit about it from a friend. She expresses experiencing troubles emotionally, dealing with the arrival of her son. Her daughter is becoming more aggressive toward the baby, and the stresses in her life are becoming overbearing. She is exhausted, but complains that she is unable to sleep most of the night.