

SECTION 4

Et aujourd'hui, elle est dans une... dans

And today, she is in a ... in

une école spécialisée ? Ou... où est-ce qu'elle en est ?¹

a specialized school? Or... where does she stand?

Alors, aujourd'hui, elle a cinq ans et demi. Elle est

So, today, she is 5 and ½. She is

en maternelle à mi-temps. Elle va deux jours par semaine
in preschool half-time. She goes 2 days per week

en maternelle.

to preschool.

Une maternelle classique ?²

A traditional preschool?

Tout à fait classique.

Completely traditional.

C'est rare, ça ! C'est bien !

That's unusual, that! That's good!

C'est- c'est super ! Et en plus, elle a obtenu – nous

It's – it's great! And also, she obtained – we

avons obtenu, après un combat acharné,

obtained, after a relentless fight,

un auxiliaire d'intégration scolaire,³ c'est-à-dire

a classroom aide, that is to say,

un emploi jeune⁴ – qu'il y en a⁵ trente-cinq dans Paris-

an emploi jeune – that there are 35 of them in Paris –

qui accompagne...

who accompanies ...

Oui, ça, il faut de l'empoigne⁶ alors, pour l'obtenir!

Yes, that, you have to be persistent then, in order to have it!

Voilà, vous avez tout compris ! En général,

That's it, you have understood (it) all! In general,

ils font un mi-temps avec un enfant et un mi-temps avec

they do half-time with one child and half-time with

un autre –qui⁷ accompagne l'enfant en classe.

another –(those) who accompanies the child in class.

C'est-à-dire qu'elle a, donc, depuis le mois de décembre, une
That is to say that she has, then, since the month of December, a

personne à plein temps pour s'occuper⁸ d'elle dans la classe.
full-time person to take care of her in class.

Il y a vingt-huit enfants dans la classe, donc
There are 28 children in the class, so

c[e n]'est pas évident d'intégrer⁹ Pauline.
it is not so easy to incorporate Pauline (into the class).

Non, bien sûr.

No, of course (not).

Mais ça l'aide énormément pour faire
But that helps her enormously to do

autre chose que de la garderie,¹⁰ justement, pour...
something other than be babysat, in fact, to ...

pour pouvoir se socialiser¹¹ avec les enfants et puis accéder à

des apprentissages.
learning.

Elle se fait¹² **des, des copains ? Elle arrive à**¹³ **parler**

She makes friends? She manages to speak

un petit peu aujourd'hui ou... ?

a little bit nowadays or ...?

Elle parle un peu plus. On la stimule pour ça,
She speaks a little more. We stimulate her to (do) that,

c'est-à-dire que... son père et moi, on fait en sorte de¹⁴... Si elle
that is to say that ... her father and I, we do so as to ... If she

nous dit, si elle nous dit : "Fromage !" Eh bien, on lui dit : "Non,
says to us, if she says to us: "Cheese!" Well then, we say to her: "No,

non, Pauline, là, tu nous fais une phrase ! Alors : je veux
no, Pauline, now, you make a sentence (for) us! So: I want

du fromage s'il te plaît maman !" Et... bien, maintenant,
some cheese, please, Mama!" And ... well, now,

on commence à y parvenir,¹⁵ mais c[e n]'est pas encore¹⁶ très
we are starting to get there, but it is not yet very

naturel, hein, la phrase ! Ça vient de temps en temps.
natural, ..., the sentence! It comes from time to time.

Non, mais ça vient !¹⁷ C'est, c'est beaucoup ! Elle a

No, but it's coming! That is, that is a lot! She has

une évolution un petit peu en dents de scie,¹⁸ ou vous

a development (which is) a little bit up and down or you

sentez que là, c'est bon, elle est repartie

feel that now, it's fine, she has started off again

sur de bonnes bases ?

on some good foundations?

Elle est sur de bonnes bases, je pense, elle a fait

She is on good foundations, I think, she has made

vraiment des progrès, mais c'est vrai qu'il y a des périodes –

truly some progress, but it is true that there are some periods –

comme beaucoup d'enfants! C'est-à-dire... souvent par moment,

as (with) many children! That is to say ... often now and then,

comme ça, pendant quinze jours,¹⁹ elle est, elle est un peu rude,²⁰

like that, for two weeks, she is, she is a bit tough,

alors on se dit : "Bon ! Allez,²¹ ça va aller mieux dans les

so we say to ourselves, "Fine! Come on! It is going to go better in the

semaines qui viennent." Et c'est souvent le cas, d'ailleurs !

weeks to come." And that is often the case, moreover!

¹ **Où est-ce qu'elle en est ?** = Where is she in this process? Where is she in this journey?

² **classique** here means "normal," "of the ordinary sort."

³ **un auxiliaire** = an aide. This person is helping Pauline integrate scholastically (helping her go to school with other, non-handicapped children.) Also, notice that it's **un auxiliaire**, even though it's a woman. In

the same vein, **une personne** is always referred to as **elle**, even if **la personne** in question is a man.

- ⁴ **un emploi jeune** is governmental term for a certain class of job for a young person. Literally, the term means "youth job."
- ⁵ This phrase is comprehensible; but this is not proper French.
- ⁶ **il faut de l'empoigne**, literally, it is necessary to have a good grip.
l'empoigne = the grip.
- ⁷ **qui** refers to **l'auxiliaire d'intégration scolaire** (the speaker is picking up from the "**qui accompagne**" of a few moments earlier.)
- ⁸ **s'occuper de** = to take care of, literally, to occupy oneself with
- ⁹ **intégrer**, literally, to integrate. So that Pauline can attend classes along with the other students.
- ¹⁰ **la garderie**: a day-care center. Pauline will feel more involved in a preschool than in a "**garderie.**"
- ¹¹ **se socialiser** = to socialize, to get involved socially.
- ¹² **se faire quelque chose**, literally, to make something for oneself. **se faire une robe** = to make a dress for oneself.
- ¹³ **arriver à** = to manage to, to succeed at, literally, to arrive at.
- ¹⁴ **fait en sorte de**: the speaker did not finish her sentence.
- ¹⁵ **y parvenir** (to reach it; to get there) is short for **parvenir à la faire parler** (to succeed in getting her to speak.)
- ¹⁶ **ne... pas encore** = not yet
- ¹⁷ **Ça vient!** (it's coming; it's happening) is commonly used to express, "We are making progress, we are getting there."
- ¹⁸ **en dents de scie**, literally, in (a) sawtooth (pattern.) **une dent** = a tooth.
une scie = a saw. By this, the speaker means to ask if the progress is halting rather than steady and smooth.
- ¹⁹ **quinze jours**, literally, 15 days. **8 jours** = one week.
- ²⁰ **rude** = hard, rough, difficult. Note that **rude** does not mean the same thing as in English. It may mean rough, but not necessarily impolite.
- ²¹ **Allez !** = Come on!, literally, "Go!" as in "Let's go!" Serves as an encouragement to oneself.