



Hobbies I : Anne's almost 4 months old

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=05>





It's a good thing that Michelle has such a great attitude, because taking care of a new baby can be a lot of work. But for Michelle, 'Anne is my new hobby.' Simone, typical of almost any woman who has had a child, starts asking about what Anne is up to. The result is a truly delightful *Conversa Brasileira*.

SIMONE: Oi, Michelle. Tudo bem?
Hi, Michelle. How's it going?

MICHELLE: Oi, tudo bem, Simone?
Hi, Simone. How are you doing?

SIMONE: Tudo jóia.
I'm fine.

MICHELLE: Tudo jóia.
I'm fine.

SIMONE: E aí, como você está?
How have you been?

MICHELLE: Tudo bem.
Pretty well.

SIMONE: O que tá fazendo?
What have you been doing?

MICHELLE: Ah, agora só cuidando dela, né? ❶
I'm just taking care of her.

SIMONE: É mesmo?
Really?

MICHELLE: É o meu novo hobby, ❷ meu mais recente hobby: cuidar de bebê!
That's my new hobby, my most recent hobby: taking care of the baby!

SIMONE: Oi Anne. Tudo bem, Anne? E como que é, ela dá muito trabalho? ❸
Hi, Anne. How are you? How is she? Is she a lot of work for you?

MICHELLE: Olha, tranquila...
Look, she's easy...

SIMONE: É?
Really?

MICHELLE: Super tranquila, dorme bem...
Very easy, she sleeps well...

SIMONE: É mesmo?
Is it true?

MICHELLE: É... chora a hora que tá suja⁴ ou querendo mamar ou alguma coisa assim, né? Mas, mas tranquila assim...
Yes. She cries when she needs changing or when she wants to be breastfed, but she's an easy baby...

SIMONE: Com quantos aninhos ela tá?
How many years old is she?

MICHELLE: Não, tá com três meses e meio.
No, she is only three and a half months.

SIMONE: Ah, três meses...
Oh, three months...

MICHELLE: Isso...
Yeah...

SIMONE: Vixe, mas você tá muito feliz!⁵
Wow, you're so happy!

MICHELLE: Três meses e meio!
Three and a half months!

SIMONE: E ela já tomou as vacinas⁶?
Has she already gotten her shots?

MICHELLE: Já.
Already.

SIMONE: Você vai sempre ao pediatra?
Do you always go to a pediatrician?

MICHELLE: Com dois meses tomou as vacinas... agora com quatro meses novamente...
At two months she got her shots, at four months she'll do it again...

SIMONE: Ah, tá...
Oh, I see...

MICHELLE: Uh, uh...
Uh, uh...

SIMONE: E à noite ela dorme direitinho ou ela acorda? ⑦
And at night, does she sleep through or does she wake up?

MICHELLE: Então... no início acordava mais à noite, né? E agora ela tá acordando só uma vez pra mamar... então tá bem boazinha... ⑧
Well, at the beginning she used to wake up more during the night, but now she only wakes up one time to breastfeed... so, she's very easy...

SIMONE: Ah, então ela é muito boazinha mesmo!
Wow, so she's pretty easy!

MICHELLE: Então, não tá dando muito trabalho não...
She's not giving me too much work...

SIMONE: É...
I see...

MICHELLE: É verdade... e agora tá na fase de brincar e mexer com as mãozinhas...
It's true... and now she is in the stage of playing with her hands...

SIMONE: Eu acho que ela acabou de mamar, porque ela tá regurgitando um pouquinho... ⑨
I think she has just finished breastfeeding, because she's spitting up a little bit...

MICHELLE: Ai!
Oh!

MICHELLE: Eh... ainda não fez o... ela não arrotou ainda...
Eh... she hasn't, she hasn't burped yet...

SIMONE: Ainda, né?
Not yet?

MICHELLE: Mas é isso...
So, that's it...

SIMONE: Mas ela não tá dando... ela é muito boazinha, ela não dá muito trabalho...
But she's not giving... she's pretty easy, she's not giving you too much work...

MICHELLE: Upa!
Upa!

SIMONE: Vixe, mãe, mas eu tô muito feliz! ⑩ Ah, então tá bom, Michelle.
Hey, mommy, I'm so happy! So, that's it, Michelle.

MICHELLE: Então tá.
That's it.

SIMONE: Então até mais.
See you later.

MICHELLE: Até mais.
See you.

SIMONE: Tchau.
Bye.

MICHELLE: Tchau, tchau.
Bye-bye.



Usage Notes

1. Agora só *cuidando* dela, né?

Brazilians use ‘ing’ endings on verbs frequently. Here Michelle is stating that she has spent her time just taking care of her daughter. Note that frequently the verb *estar* drops out and Brazilians use the ‘ing’ ending without the helping verb.

2. É o meu novo *hobby*

Although the word *passatempo* could be a Portuguese translation of ‘hobby,’ most Brazilians would be more likely to use the English word ‘hobby.’ As such, they even pronounce the ‘h’ as one would do in English, sounding almost like the Brazilian ‘r’.

3. Ela *dá* muito *trabalho*?

Literally Brazilians use the verb *dar* ‘give’ in the phrase ‘*Ela dá muito trabalho*’. ‘Does she give a lot of work?’ means ‘Does she cause a lot of work?’ or simply ‘Is she a lot of work?’

4. Chora *a hora* que tá suja ou querendo mamar

The phrase *a hora* means “at the time when” so Michelle is stating that Anne cries at the time when she has a dirty diaper. Speakers may also say *na hora* to emphasize the “at the time” part.

5. *Vixe*, mas você tá muito feliz.

Vixe is a reduced form of “*Virgem Maria*” which speakers usually pronounce as “*Vixe*” or “*Vixe Maria*.” *Vixe* is particularly common among speakers from the Northeast of Brazil and Simone, in fact, is from Recife.

6. E ela já *tomou* as vacinas.

Because the verb *tomar* means “to take,” native Speakers of English might find it strange to “*tomar uma vacina*” as if they were taking a vaccination. In Portuguese, however, there is no problem in *tomar remédios* orally or *tomar uma vacina* as in a shot.

7. E à noite ela dorme *direitinho* ou ela acorda?

The diminutive ending *-inho* takes on the nuance of saying that Anne sleeps just right. There is an endearing quality because she is talking about the little baby.

8. *Direitinho, boazinha, mãozinhas, um pouquinho*

Brazilians have an incredible use of diminutive endings, but they don't always have the same nuance in meaning. For example, *direitinho* emphasizes how well Anne sleeps, but *mãozinhas* specifically refers to the small size of Anne's hands. *Um pouquinho* means "a little bit."

9. Ela tá *regurgitando*

Words from one language to another have what is called a "semantic range." Here is a good example. In English we understand the word "regurgitate," but would never use that verb to describe when a baby is spitting up. The semantic range in Portuguese, however, permits its use in talking about babies too. Note that Brazilians also use the verb *golfar* to talk about spitting up.

10. *Vixe mãe, mas eu tô muito feliz!*

Notice that Simone is talking or quoting Anne. A typical way to do baby talk is to talk as if you were the child. She is in essence imitating Anne's voice.