



Moms in the Park I: Don't cry. You're OK!

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=17>





Dialog

We've all seen this scene hundreds of times. Moms take their children to play in the park. While doing so, the moms sit and chat on the park bench. With one eye on the children and the other on their friends, moms swap stories, examples, and keep each other up on the latest of what's going on. Today we find out that Gabriel wants to be Spider-Man and Dandara has been going to the corner store to buy chocolate on credit, a delightful *Conversa Brasileira*.

ANDRÉIA: Menina do céu, ❶ mas eu tô muito contente...
Girl, I'm so happy...

SÍLVIA: Ah, eles são engraçadinhos... ❷
Oh, they are so cute...

ANDRÉIA: ... muito contente!
... so happy!

SÍLVIA: Agora, ah, eles são uma gracinha... Olha!
Now, ah, they're so cute... Look!

ANDRÉIA: Ah, olha lá!
Oh, look over there!

SÍLVIA: Eles são... Eles são... Gabriel e Dandara juntos! Vamos ver o que que essa dupla apronta, né?
They are... they are... Gabriel and Dandara together! Let's see what these two will come up with next.

ANDRÉIA: Olha, minha filha, Dandara a cada dia me surpreende...
Listen, girl, Dandara surprises me more everyday...

SÍLVIA: Bi, a mamãe tá aqui, tá?
Bi (Gabriel), mommy is over here, ok?

ANDRÉIA: Danda?
Danda?

SÍLVIA: Aqui, ó, sentadinha. Não vai pra lá! Fica aí, tá? ❸
Here, look, I'm sitting over here. Don't go over there! Stay where you are, ok?

ANDRÉIA: Dandinha? Meu amorzinho, fofura! ④
Dandinha? My love, darling!

SÍLVIA: Você chama ela de *Dandinha* ou *Dandarinha*? ⑤
You call her *Dandinha* or *Dandarinha*?

ANDRÉIA: Cuidado!
Careful!

SÍLVIA: Eu chamo de *Dandarinha*... ⑥
I call (her) *Dandarinha*...

ANDRÉIA: A gente cha...
We call...

SÍLVIA: Não é *Dandarinha*?
Isn't it *Dandarinha*?

ANDRÉIA: Menina, eu, é que acontece que o pai chama de *Dandarinha*, eu chamo *Dandinha*... Mas a gente acordou agora, ⑦ então vamos chamar dos dois jeitos...
Girl, I, well what happened is that her dad calls (her) *Dandarinha*, and I call (her) *Dandinha*... But we've just realized that, so we'll call her by both...

SÍLVIA: Ela tem mais uma carinha... Ela tem uma carinha de *Dandarinha* pra mim... Tem uma carinha de *Dandarinha*... ⑧
She looks like... She looks more like a *Dandarinha* to me... She looks more like a *Dandarinha*...

ANDRÉIA: Filhi... filhinha! Cuidado, meu amorzinho...
Darl... Darling! Careful, my love...

SÍLVIA: Agora, olha, olha, olha o que vai começar... o que vai começar...
Now look, look, look at what they're starting... what they're starting...

ANDRÉIA: Ok, ok... Tá bom, meu bem... Tá bom...
Ok, ok... That's enough, darling... That's enough...

SÍLVIA: Vai começar a subir na árvore, e achando, achando que é o Super ... Super-Homem! Tá um...
He is going to start climbing the trees thinking he's, thinking he's Super... Superman! He's so...

ANDRÉIA: Mas é assim agora?
But it's like that now?

SÍLVIA:	Não; Homem-Aranha! É o Homem-Aranha! 9 No; Spider-Man! He's Spider-man!
ANDRÉIA:	Homem-Aranha! Spider- Man!
SÍLVIA:	Homem-Aranha! Homem-Aranha! Ele tá achando que é o Homem-Aranha! Ele gosta de subir nas coisas... não sei o que lá... 10 Cuidado, Gabriel! Gabriel, cuidado, Gabriel!! Spider-Man! Spider-Man! He keeps thinking he is Spider-Man!! He likes to climb on things... I don't know what else... Careful, Gabriel! Careful Gabriel, Careful!
ANDRÉIA:	Ai, meu Deus, que que aconteceu? Ah, não, tá tudo bem... Oh, my goodness, what happened?? Oh no, it's all right...
SÍLVIA:	Quase, quase, quase caiu! Almost, he almost fell!
ANDRÉIA:	Tá tudo bem, tudo bem! It's ok, it's all right!
SÍLVIA:	Levanta! Isso! Isso, isso, isso, isso... Get up! That's it! That's it, that's it, that's it, that's it...
ANDRÉIA:	Ah, quantas vezes você não caiu, vai! 11 Oh, you probably fell lots of times too, come on!
SÍLVIA:	Criança cai, né? Criança cai! Kids fall down, right? Kids fall down!
ANDRÉIA:	Fala a verdade! É "balança mas não cai", 12 meu bem! That's true! It's that "slip but don't fall", my dear!
SÍLVIA:	Isso! Yup!
ANDRÉIA:	Balança, balança mas não cai! Swinging, swinging but not falling!
SÍLVIA:	Não, não, não chora não! Não chora não. Isso! Não tem nada! Não aconteceu nada! Tá aqui! Tá tudo bem! Tá bom? Ah, se a gente... Tem hora que, se cair e não olhar, aí ele nem sente. Mas se olhar, aí pronto, 13 né? Don't, don't, don't cry! Don't cry, there you go! It was nothing! Nothing happened! It's all right! It's all right, ok? Well, if we... There are times when he falls, if we don't look at him, he won't care about it. But if we look, the next thing you know he's making a big deal out of it, right?

ANDRÉIA: Menina, a Dandara aprontou! Sílvia do céu...
Girl, you won't believe what Dandara has been up to! My dear little Sílvia...

SÍLVIA: Que que aconteceu dessa vez?
What happened this time?

ANDRÉIA: Você é minha amiga, eu vou, vou falar a verdade, vou abrir o jogo, ¹⁴
né, minha amiga? Mas, assim, ela me aprontou¹⁵ uma que ela...
You are my friend, So I'll, I'll tell you the truth, lets put all the cards on the table, right? But, well, she was up to something so unbelievable that she...

SÍLVIA: Mas a Dandarinha, com aquela carinha de santinha? De anjinho?
Dandarinha? With that saintly face of angel?

ANDRÉIA: Meu bem, olha, essa vai ser uma mulher guerreira! De
personalidade!¹⁶
Darling, this girl is going to be a fighter! With personality!

SÍLVIA: Ela é linda demais, ela é muito bonita!
She is so pretty, very beautiful!

ANDRÉIA: Ela tava saindo com o pai, passeando. Eu não sei bem a história,
porque esses pais são babão¹⁷ mesmo, né? Não presta atenção em
tudo. Foi no bar ao lado de casa, comprou um chocolate fiado!¹⁸ Sem
eu saber, sem o pai saber!
She was out with her dad. I don't really understand the whole story,
you know how silly dads are, right? They don't pay attention. She went
to the general store by our house and she bought chocolate on credit!

SÍLVIA: Nós estamos falando da mesma pessoa? Dandarinha?! Aquela, aquela
que eu tô vendo, aquela carinha ali, pequenininha?
Are we talking about the same person? Dandarinha?! The one I'm
looking at, the one with the pretty little face?

ANDRÉIA: Ok, fofucha! Já vou aí, já vou aí! ¹⁹ Aí, menina do céu, quando eu vou
no bar... na vendinha do Seu...
Ok, cutie! I'm coming, I'll be right there! Then, girl, when I went to the
corner store...

SÍLVIA: Dá, dá pra ela! Dá pra... Deixa com ela! Deixa com ela!
Give it, give it to her! Give... Let her play with it! Let her play with it!

ANDRÉIA: ... na vendinha do Seu João...
... to Mr. João's corner store...

SÍLVIA: Isso... isso... Isso, filhinho, muito bem! Gracinha!
That's it... That's it... That's it, darling, very good! Cutie!

ANDRÉIA: ...ela pega... eu fico sabendo que ela comprou esse chocolate... Fiquei surpresa! Agora, veja como a gente...
...she gets... I was told that she bought this chocolate... I was surprised! Now, see how we...

SÍLVIA: Fiado? Fiado?
On credit? On credit?

ANDRÉIA: ... tem que saber colocar limite nessas crianças!
... we have to know how to give these kids limits!

SÍLVIA: Nossa, isso é muito perigoso!
Wow, that's really dangerous!

ANDRÉIA: Sílvia!

SÍLVIA: Imagina²⁰ se eu deixo o Gabriel um pouquinho... Você tem que ter cuidado com isso! Por que ela é...
There is no way I'd leave Gabriel by himself for a little bit... You have to be careful with that! Because she can...

ANDRÉIA: Mas ela tá muito crítica! É uma fase...
She at a very critical stage! It's a phase...

SÍLVIA: ... muito ativa!
... very active!

ANDRÉIA: ... do "porquê"... Ontem, cheguei cansada, falei: "Filhinha, pega o meu chinelo lá²¹ embaixo da cama, pra mamãe?" Ela falou: "Só vou se você me der um troco, me der um real!" Vê se pode²² Sílvia?!
... of asking "why"... Yesterday I got home all tired and I said "Darling, can you get my slippers from under the bed for mommy?" and she said: "I'll only go if you give me some money, like a dollar!" Can you believe that, Silvia?

SÍLVIA: Não, não, não! Isso, isso... do lado de lá²³! Isso, isso, filhinho...
No, no, no! That's it, that's it, on that side! That's it, darling...

ANDRÉIA: Mas é assim! Essas crianças hoje em dia você não sabe...
But that's the way it is! You never know with these kids today...



Usage Notes

1. *Menina do céu*, mas eu tô muito contente...

You already know that Brazilians are very much into using vocatives - a specific noun form or a proper name that is used in addressing the interlocutor to keep him engaged in the conversation.

In this dialog, the vocative is used several times. Note that in this case Andréia says *menina do céu* and later on she also says *Sílvia do céu*. As a result of a very strong catholic heritage, it is common that Brazilians add the expression do céu (from heaven) to the end of the vocative to express amazement, admiration or surprise. It might come from expressions like *Mãe do céu* and *Pai do céu*, referring to Mary and God, respectively.

2. Ah, eles são *engraçadinhos...* / eles são uma *gracinha...*

According to Sílvia, the kids are uma graça! That's the Brazilian way to say that someone/something is cute, lovely, adorable or gracious, graceful. The word engraçadinho(a) can also be used to express the same meaning.

Note the similarity here: grace/grça. The structure in Portuguese is: X + ser/estar/ficar + engraçadinho(a) or X + ser/estar/ficar + uma graça. Note that, in the first case, the diminutive is required (if you do not use it, the meaning will be "X is funny"). In the second case, the diminutive is optional and can be used to add emphasis: *uma gracinha!* and also *que gracinha!* (so lovely!).

3. Não vai pra lá! Fica aí, tá?

English speakers can have a hard time with the Portuguese adverbs *lá* and *aí*, since both correspond to “there” in English. Use *aqui* (here) when referring to the place that is close to you; *aí* when referring to places close to the person you are addressing and use *lá* when referring to places that are more distant.

- *aqui*: this place here (close to the speaker);
- *aí*: that place where you are (close to the person you are addressing);
- *lá*: over there (a place away from both the speaker and the person being spoken to).

4. Dandinha? Meu amorzinho, fofura!

In this dialog we have several examples of words Brazilians use as a term of endearment, affection or love when addressing their kids: *amorzinho*, *fofura*, *fofuchola*, *filhinho/a*.

5. Você chama ela de Dandinha ou Dandarinha?

Brazilians are known by their informal way to establish interpersonal relationships. They express such characteristic, among other ways, by calling each other for the first name rather than the last one (even in more formal contexts) and by using a lot of nicknames (*apelidos* in Brazilian Portuguese). Among the processes of creating nicknames in Brazil, the most common ones are:

- a) the use of the diminutive (*Dandarinha*, *Paulinha*, *Jorginho*, *Ronaldino*, etc);
- b) the reduction of proper names, with the stressed syllable as the base (*Biel* - for *Gabriel*; *Beto* - for *Roberto*; *Zé* - for *José*);
- c) the reduction of proper names, with the first syllable as the base (*Pri* - for *Priscila*; *De* - for *Denise*; *Lu* - for *Luíza* or *Luciano(a)*; *Bi* - for *Biel/Gabriel*). Notice that at some point in this dialog *Sílvia* uses “*Bi*” to refer to her son *Gabriel*.
- d) the repetition of the syllables containing the stressed vowel (*Lili* - for *Alice*; *Dedé* - for *Débora* or *André*; *Cacá* - for *Ricardo*).

6. Eu *chamo de Dandarinha*...

In Brazilian Portuguese direct object pronouns (**o, a, os, as**) are often omitted in colloquial speech: *Eu chamo de Dandarinha*: “I call (her) Dandarinha.” Note also that direct object pronouns are usually replaced by **ele, ela, eles, elas**: *Você chama ela de Dandinha ou Dandarinha?*

7. Mas a gente *acordou* agora...

It may be difficult for a non-native speaker to understand the meaning of the verb *acordar* in this sentence. You know that *acordar* can mean “to wake up”, but note that it is not the case here. In this sentence it means “to realize, take into consideration.”

8. Ela *tem uma carinha de* Dandarinha.

Ter cara de is the expression you can use to talk about similarities: *Ele tem cara de brasileiro* (He looks like a Brazilian guy); *Ela tem cara de Dandarinha* (She looks more like a Dandarinha to me). *Estar com cara de* is another similar expression very common in Brazil: *Você está com (uma) cara de cansado/bravo*, etc. (It looks like you're tired/hungry, etc.). Note that the use of the article *uma* (along with the intonation) before the noun *cara* adds emphasis.

9. *Super-Homem* X *Homem-Aranha*

Note the difference in the order here: *Super-Homem* X *Homem-Aranha*. Both are compound nouns (made up of two words). In the first case, *super* is a prefix (meaning *over, above, superior*) and, as a prefix, it must always be used before the noun: *supermercado*; *superestrutura*, *super-resistente*, *supermãe*. On the other hand, *Homem-Aranha* is a noun formed by NOUN + NOUN and the second one, *aranha*, acts almost as an adjective, so it is placed after the noun.

10. Ele gosta de subir nas coisas... *não sei o que lá...*

What a great expression here: *não sei o que lá!* Actually, it means *não sei o que mais* (I don't know what else) and usually it comes after a list of things: X, Y, *não sei o que, não sei o que lá...* expressing uncertainty about what else could be added to the list. Here, Sílvia uses it to wrap up what she was saying before, making it clear that there are other things that could be added to the list of “things Gabriel likes to do.”

11. Ah, quantas vezes você *não caiu*, vai!

This is a very interesting use of *não*. This is not a negative sentence - actually, Andréia is making the point that Sílvia has probably fallen a lot of times! Note that the intonation here is very important - this is a *não* without a stressed accent. If you ask for something and the answer is: *Pois não!*, know that this “no” actually means “yes”!

12. É “*balança mas não cai*”, meu bem!

Another great expression here... Talking about how often kids put themselves in risky situations without - fortunately - really falling or being hurt, Andréia uses the expression: *balança mas não cai*. It recaptures an old Brazilian Humor Radio Program from the 50's, which later on was on TV for more than 15 years.

13. Mas se olhar, *ai pronto*, né?

Don't take this expression literally... Note that Sílvia was talking about the times when her son falls. She says that if we don't look at him, he won't care about it. But if we look, then he'll make a big deal of it! - *ai pronto!*

14. ...vou *abrir o jogo*, né, minha amiga?

Abrir o jogo - what a great expression in Portuguese! Its equivalent in English should be “to lay all the cards on the table.”

15. ... ela *me aprontou uma* que ela...

Observe some different meanings of the verb *aprontar*: to prepare, get ready, finish. But in this case it has a very colloquial meaning: “to be up to something of no good.” Note the use of *me* before the verb and *uma* after it - along with the intonation: they add emphasis to the story Andréia is about to tell.

16. De *personalidade!*

Intonation in Portuguese - what a challenge for a non-native speaker! Notice the way that Andréia pronounces "**PER**so**NA**li**DA**de": while talking slowly, she adds emphasis to every other syllable, based on the location of the primary stress (which in this case is the syllable **DA**).

17. ... *esses pais são babão* mesmo, né? Não *presta* atenção em tudo.

“The adjective must match the noun in number” and “The verb must match the subject in number”... Well, at least this is what the Portuguese textbooks say ... But here we have a good example showing that, in common spoken Brazilian Portuguese, this is not always the case.

18. ...*comprou* um chocolate *fiado*.

Dandinha aprontou! She bought some chocolate *fiado(a)* - which means she bought it on credit. The problem is that she has no money at all!

19. Já vou aí! Já vou aí!

Be careful not to use the verbs of motion *ir* and *vir* based on a literal translation. Use *ir* (to go) to indicate a movement away from you or from the place where you are at the moment of speaking. Use *vir* (to come) to indicate a movement toward you or toward the place where you are at the moment of speaking. Notice, for example, that in English a mother shouts, “Johnny, come home!” to which Johnny responds, “I’m coming.” In Brazil a mother would shout, “Joãozinho, vem cá” to which he would respond, “Já vou.”

20. Imagina se eu deixo o Gabriel um pouquinho...

Note this special meaning of the verb *imaginar*: Sílvia points out that there is no way she would leave Gabriel by himself... *Imagina se eu deixo* (lit. “Imagine if I leave”), in this case corresponds to something like, “there is no way that I could ever imagine leaving.”

21. Filhinha, pega o meu chinelo lá embaixo da cama

Brazilians love to use the word *lá* in places that a non-native speaker would never use it. Here we have a perfect example of it: *lá embaixo da cama* (under the bed). Notice these other examples: *A festa vai ser lá em casa / lá na universidade / lá na praia* (The party is going to happen at my home / at the university / at the beach.) In some cases, there is not even any reference to places: *Sei lá!* (I have no idea!); *Sabe-se lá por quê!* (We have no idea why!).

Notice also that Brazilians use the collective *o meu chinelo* (my slipper) in the singular, where in English we tend to use the plural “get my slippers for me.”

22. Vê se pode, Sílvia?!

This is an interesting way Brazilians have to say “can you believe that?” It is probably a short version of *Veja se algo assim pode(ria) acontecer*, meaning the opposite: “something like that should not be happening.”

23. *Do lado de lá!*

Do lado de lá! (on that side!) is what Sílvia says to Gabriel, trying to avoid an accident... Notice the totally different structures in both languages for this expression. The Brazilian equivalent for “on this side” is *do lado de cá* and the Brazilian equivalent for “on that side” is *do lado de lá*. Be aware, however, that you can also say: *daquele lado* for “on that side.”

