# Twins were 'like a double blessing'

Continued from Page 17

as the oldest child differently. "She's very responsible," Teresa says.

The fourth grade student at JMS is an avid reader, and when she is not keeping an eye on her little sister, Claire, helping her mom around the house or outside with her dad, she is found curled up with a book.

Her moments of solace do not go uninterrupted in a house with a brother and four younger sisters. "There's always someone trying to talk to me when I'm reading," she says.

Despite the craziness of sisters squealing and her brother poking her, Grace, like her mom, wants to have a family one day similar to what she has known as a child.

### Luke

Within 18 months of Grace's arrival into Teresa and Jason's lives, the little family welcomed Luke. Like his older sister, he had no idea what his influence in the Sheaffer household would be one day. Four more sisters would follow him, and he would be the lone male

"Sometimes I have to play whatever the girls like to play," he admits, because there are no other boys. Thankfully, he adds, some of his sisters like sports, and he gets to chase them.

"Ugh. Luke drives us crazy chasing us with a dart gun!" 7-year-old Rachel declares. The other girls murmur in agreement and Luke gives a shy smile.

His parents describe him as a caring young man, despite the quarrels with his four sisters.

"He's very sensitive ... he cares. His first year of baseball he pitched very well but when he got out there he didn't want to hit the batter," Teresa mentions. Dad Jason points out that when he practiced at home with sister Grace at bat - he held nothing back. Listening to his parents' words, Luke gives a shy grin.

The third grader also helped form a Bible club at his school.

#### Anna

Within a few months of Luke's birth, the couple was expecting a third child.

"After Grace none of (the pregnancies) were planned," Jason says.



Sentinel photo by TABITHA GOODLING

Having fun in the family room are, from left, Erin, Claire and Rachel Sheaffer.

The third pregnancy for Teresa came to an end at 20 weeks gestation. She says she knew something was wrong because the baby had stopped moving. She went to the doctor, and later the couple saw their stillborn daughter whom they named Anna.

"I missed that baby," Teresa

says of Anna. And once again, without plan, she was expecting again.

# Rachel and Emily

This pregnancy was much different than any other she had experienced. The couple learned early on they were going to have twins. "Now this was like a double blessing from the Lord," Teresa adds, as she was still grieving the loss of one.

Twins were not found in either Teresa or Jason's family tree. This was truly a surprise.

Remarkably Teresa carried the identical baby girls to full term. Twins are usually born at 34 to 36 weeks gestation. Rachel and Emily came into the world looking very much a like, but have shown their parents every day they are two very different little ladies.

Rachel is talkative and outgoing, very sure of herself, Teresa says. Emily is high-spirited but more shy than her twin.

"Rachel is the jokester and the drama queen," her mom says, and Emily has a sensitive side.

The twins, who are in first grade, are known for wearing specific colors so people can identify them. Rachel wears some item of purple, and Emily wears pink. Their smiles are similar and their excitement for friends, school and each other is the same.

"They are both morning people," mom points out.

The twins share a bedroom and wake up "every morning giggling. That's how they start their day. Every morning they are giggling in their room," Teresa says.

## Erin

When the twins were 2 years old they became big sisters. Erin became the next Sheaffer girl and has been a

Continued on Page 19

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