



Full Name: Danielle Cecilia Espinili de Leon
AKA: Dan; Dani; Danibe; Damokmok; "Un Beso del Cielo"
Birth date: 2000 May 20
Birth Place: Lipa, Batangas, Philippines
Mother: Noena Virginia F. Espinili
Father: Paul Jericho de Leon (Damer)

Meet Danielle Cecilia. A cross between a Batangueña and a Visayan-Bulakeño. I have always imagine having a cute kid. But God, I must have done something really good to deserve this.

The name came from the hit movie "Ever After", where Drew Barrymore played the part of the cinderella girl 'Danielle.' Where as Cecilia..well..I always love the filipino names during the early spanish colonial years, seem to befit it all.

Now I'm not bragging or something, but whenever my wife and I take Dani to public places, we always get comments from strangers like "Ay ang cute cute naman" or "bata, amin ka na lang". There was this one time that a stranger approached my wife and asked her if she wants to get my kid into one of those ad agencies or something. It's true...it's true. But that's not what I'm going to brag about.

It wasn't like this before. You see, our daughter was born 2 months premature. She was in this incubator in the hospital nursery just trying to breathe squarely. And those who caught a glimpse of her just said "Bakit ang payat? Bakit ganyan ang hitsura nya?" And this doctor was so rude that he told us if we wanted to get our baby an emergency baptism just in case she doesn't make it.

But my baby is a fighter. A trait that she got from her mom. She shrugged off every sign of weakness. And from this "ugly duckling" persona, she became this heavenly child that just shines an amazing aura to anyone (and I mean anyone) who sees her.

She's smart, funny, crazy, spoiled, heart-warming, and knows how to get out of her own "kapilyahan" (traits that she got from her mom too). So every morning that we wake up, seeing Dani, we feel that things couldn't get better than this.



