It's a DIFFERENT world

00:35 Scott Turner Hi, this is Scott .

00:40 Scott Turner Age 12

00:45 STEPHEN Turner Age 10 I'm Sam , I'm… but they certainly do, because Sam I'm is crazy.

00:55 [sil.]

01:00 KATIE Turner Age 10

01:05 [sil.]

01:10 All three Turner kids are Autistic

01:15 Scott Turner Sorry about that interruption folks and now back to the show.

01:20 [sil.]

01:25 It's a DIFFERENT World

01:30 MARY Turner "Mother" I think everybody has a dream of what their child is going to be in and you know that they're going to be like them and they're going to do the things that you never got to do or give them the opportunities you never had and I think its very hard to look at your child and realize that they are not going to …to meet the expectations that you are hoping. There was a poem called Welcome to Holland which is a very good poem for people who or for parents of kids with special needs and it talks about preparing your life for your trip to Italy and everybody is going to Italy and they're all you know getting their money ready to go to Italy and they are reading their travel brochures for going to Italy and then suddenly get on the plane and the steward announces that you're going to Holland and Hollandis a beautiful place, but it's not Italy and you were prepared to go toItaly . So the, you know saying that you have a special need child doesn't mean it's a horrible life, it's just a different life and it was onethat you had not prepared for and you hadn't been preparing for… for your entire life.

02:35 2005

02:40 SUSAN Guigen Therapist I'm Susan Guigen , I've been working with Katie for about two years but I've been in this house for five years. I started out as a volunteer because Mary had three kids and

all three of them were autistic. So she needed a lot more help. Look that way. Any cars?.

03:00 Katie Turner Yes.

Susan Guigen Where?… Where is there a car? Look again. Any more cars?

03:10 Katie Turner Where?

Susan Guigen Where? No more cars. Look.

Katie Turner No more car.

03:15 Susan Guigen I worked with just the boys, to say weren't in school full time yet and Katie would just kind of flutter around the room. She had no concept I was here, no concept anybody was here. She would just be on her little world, flap her hands and a real big breakthrough was the one day I was playing with the kids and we are running around and she ran with us and I thought, okay, now, she knows I am here ah… she knew, no vocabulary at all, the first couple of years I was here. That has grown in leaps and bounce in the last, especially the last six months in last year. She is now able to saysomething hurts, I want something, I don't want something. 'No' is definitely in her vocabulary. So it makes a lot more fun. I guess maybe some of the… the harder points would be getting her to try somethingthat she has never tried before. She doesn't want to do what I've asked her to do, but she can't tell me why? and she can't tell me what she would rather do. So she is frustrated and she doesn't know how to communicate that to me other than to say no and scream. You're doing a good job Katie . Keep brushing now more brushing that's it.

04:35 Mary Turner Communicating with Katie has been a long process of learning for both us. You know we've most of Katie'sneeds are the here and the now, I want this, I want that and so she began to just by either dragging us to the object or dragging the object to us, that's often how kids with autism communicate. So you know we try to intervene with a… a picture exchange system where you know we taught her when she was dragging that object to us to you know slide this picture into her hand and get her to exchange the picture and then increasing her sort of library of pictures, we were able to get her to request things that may not be immediately in her field of view and that… that increased her communication significantly.

05:25 2007

05:30 [sil.]

05:35 Katie Turner I want X

ANDREW Turner "Father" I know… I know you want… you want me to close it for numbering sweetie, Okay.

05:40 Katie Turner All done.

Andrew Turner Yes, that's turn, my turn.

05:45 Katie Turner When is it my turn?.

Andrew Turner It's your turn soon, okay probably at 1:30 at your time. Is that okay?

05:55 Mary Turner That's an amazing how quickly she picks up on certain technology like the computer and like this camera.

06:00 In 2007 all 3 kids were given general commands in document their own lives

06:05 Mary Turner She has learned the connection between person that recorded by these and that's producing the results that she wanted at first. We got a lot of pictures of the close up of her fingers, because she would have the fingers of the lengths. But after a few tries you know we showed her and she was able to pick up on rather quickly. She has made some really remarkable gain from the last year communication and this is well grow who had no communication whatsoever until the age of five and then it's been a very slow, slow since then. But in the last year we found a new therapist who has worked with Katie , who is really teaching some functional language and it made her dependent on verbal propitious.

06:55 Susan Guiegen Okay, be a frog. And be a cat. And be a dog. And rooster.

07:15 Mary Turner Stephen is very different than Katie . He is what they consider high functioning, he is very verbal, he is able to expresshis needs and wants. He doesn't have the same kind of obsessive compulsive behaviors, he doesn't seem to need to fulfill any… anything like that. So on first blush with both my boys they are really isn't a any kind of indication that there is anything wrong.

07:40 2005

07:45 Stephen Turner Scott you're not even… you're not even into the game, if you're not going to play, I'm going to put this away. Katie is different than both of us because she has very few calm moments.

07:55 Mark Turner Yeah.

Stephen Turner She has a big… she has a tantrum. Most of the time she has a big tantrum after a bus comes.

08:05 [sil.]

08:10 Scott Turner The teachers need to learn that she is just not the sweetest girl in the class. The teachers need to learn that. Because or else once she started feeling the temper tantrum they punish her.

08:25 [sil.]

08:30 Mark Turner Do you have autism?

08:35 Scott Turner Yes.

Stephen Turner We all.

Scott Turner It's a special form.

Stephen Turner Every kid in the family does.

08:40 Mark Turner Yeah, tell me about your special form.

Asperger's Syndrome (AS), is a pervasive developmental disorder commonly referred to as a form of "high-functioning" autism

Scott Turner Asperger's Syndrome is kind of like autism, but you know what? It's not… it's not completely, because first thing you can talk, you can walk at your earlier age and you can do anything and it feels so cloak as you can actually fit in with the rest of the kids withoutreally being noticed. Because you like how autism as severe as Katie's, what in telling in grade one and then it improves in grade two usually.Well, that's what happened with me, I don't know about everyone else.

09:20 Stephen Turner But for me it was early. I am, I only hazed sever in GK, but then I got better attitude and escape when I was about six or something and then that was okay dokie, Okie Dokie. Autism is like a little power, it is like a little power and I said these fall, fall of you got better erratic(ph), but once has no more leaves you're getting, you… you're like a normal kid again or when, but sometimes it takes longer time and the leaves don't fall as quickly.

10:00 Mary Turner You might just think there is something odd or different, but you may realize that the conversation is pretty much monopolized by what their interests are. They have a hard time shifting focus you know to another conversation. They don't know when conversations particularly end when people lose interest in the topic.

10:25 Stephen Turner Scott I'm done like a due shape. Try to guess what that this.

10:30 Scott Turner Emofs(ph).

Stephen Turner Nope.

10:35 Scott Turner Headphones.

Stephen Turner Yep.

Mark Turner What else do you like, what else you do at school?

10:40 Scott Turner Oh, yeah. I get a Kudu token.

10:45 Stephen Turner But I have to pull one on.

Mark Turner Scott ?

Mary Turner They also don't solicit a lot of information from someone else. They are more than happy to talk about their subjects but they may not say, so how was you're day? Did you have a good day today?And what did you do today? And what's… what's your favorite subject in school? Their peers tend to lose interest and they may drift awayyou know, they won't look to somebody else who is more responsive to what they want.

11:15 Mark Turner Would you rather not be autistic?

Stephen Turner Yep.

Mark Turner Yeah, how come?

11:20 Stephen Turner Because excite to have more opportunities.

11:25 Mark Turner To do what?

Stephen Turner To do anything.

11:30 Mark Turner Yeah.

Stephen Turner But it's great because I didn't get a cubage about the disability or board and you need to meet, you need to meet… have disabilities. I have disabilities, but its also fun being autistic, because you can… because you can also like but you can also… they could doanything that normal kids can't do.

12:05 Mark Turner Like what?

Stephen Turner I have no examples at this time.

12:10 [sil.]

2007

12:15 Mark Turner So do you remember you've been trying and explain it to me and to somebody who doesn't know what autism is? Your going to explain what it was like to be autistic?

12:25 Stephen Turner I wouldn't really do that

Mary Turner No.

12:30 No