

Summer Series Presents:

Asperger Syndrome: From Diagnosis to Independence









Independent Living

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Asperger Syndrome: From Diagnosis to Independence









Dr. Temple Grandin



What is Autism/Asperger Syndrome?



Asperger Syndrome

Asperger Syndrome is one of several previously separate subtypes of autism that were folded into the single diagnosis autism spectrum disorder (ASD) with the publication of the DSM-5 diagnostic manual in 2013.



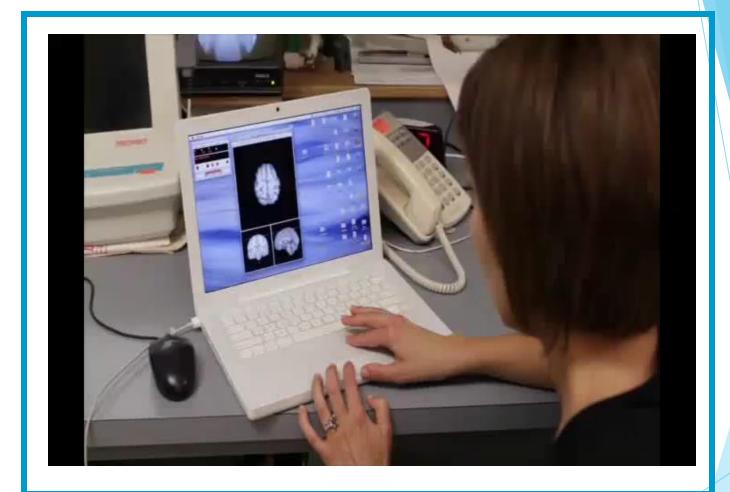


Possible Behaviors

The following behaviors are often associated with Asperger Syndrome. However, they are seldom all present in any one individual and vary widely in degree:

- limited or inappropriate social interactions
- "robotic" or repetitive speech
- challenges with nonverbal communication (gestures, facial expression, etc.) coupled with average to above average verbal skills
- tendency to discuss self rather than others
- inability to understand social/emotional issues or nonliteral phrases
- lack of eye contact or reciprocal conversation
- obsession with specific, often unusual, topics
- one-sided conversations
- awkward movements and/or mannerisms





Dr. Janessa Manning



Preparing for a Life of Independence



People on the autism spectrum should be encouraged to reach the highest level of potential within their range of capabilities.

- 1. While They Are Young Developing Life Skills
- 2. Higher Education Building the Foundation
- 3. Transportation Choices
- 4. Employment Necessary Skill Set
- 5. Living Independently The Launch
- 6. Relationships/Marriage The Logic of Love





1. While They Are Young Developing Life Skills



While They are Young

Neurobehavioral disorders (Aspergers/ADHD) are not just disorders of childhood; they may affect all aspects of adult life.

- Poor time management
- disorganization
- difficulty with planning and prioritizing, forgetfulness
- inconsistency and
- impulsive decision-making





Teach Life Skills Gradually

- Parents should avoid introducing too many new skills at once and allow the child more time to accomplish tasks.
- Strengthen their weaknesses Social & Communication Skills
- Develop their intense interests into potential careers
- Build a work ethic
- Give room to develop and grow





2. Higher Education

Building the Foundation



- Traditional 4-year College
- Community College
- On-line Education
- Apprenticeship/On-site Career Training







3. Transportation

Choices



Means of Transportation

Transportation provides a vital lifeline for people with disabilities to access employment, education, healthcare, and community life.

- Obtain Drivers License
- Public Transit (Bus Line/Uber/Taxi/light rail)
- Walk/Bike
- Car Pooling
- Transportation Services provided under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Amendment of 1990. Link to information: http://www.thearc.org/what-we-do/public-policy/policyissues/transportation



Texas Driver License Restriction Code: Communication Impediment with a Peace Officer



Common challenges associated with communication impediment medically fall into 2 categories:

Neuro Developmental Disorder -(communication challenge present at birth)

 Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Mild intellectual disability, Deafness, Speech & languages disorders, (Aphasia, Selective Mute-ism, Stuttering) Expressive Language Disorder and Down Syndrome.

Acquired Injury - (communication challenge due to an accident or trauma)

 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Deafness, Brain Injury and Parkinson's Disease

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Texas Transportation Code §521.125 allows the Texas Department of Public Safety to include a notice on the driver license or identification card of those who indicate they have a health condition that may impede their ability to communicate with a peace officer

- Have your physician complete and sign a Physician's Statement Form (DL101) affirming the Autism, Asperger, speech disability or other appropriate diagnosis.
- Visit your local driver license office for a driver license application (KL14A/S) and complete line 7 on the form.

For all Driver License Forms go to: <u>www.dps.texas.gov/Dri</u> <u>verLicense</u>









Texas DPS Driver Self-Assessment Survey

Name:	DOB:	Parent(s):	Contact Information (Ph)	(email)
	B0B			_(oman)

Participant/Parent: Please fill out the self assessment survey as best as possible so the Texas Department of Public Safety "Driving with Autism" troopers may best assess your driving current skills.

1. Participant Diagnosis: (circle one)

High Functioning Autism * Asperger Syndrome * Other Communication Impediment_

(must be accompanied by Texas DPS Physician's statement form (DL101) affirming the autism or speech disorder diagnosis.)

2. Rate Challenges and Skills (1-5) with 1 representing no challenge and 5 representing with great difficulty.

	1	2	3	4	5	Additional Comments
Rate current ability to drive						
Understanding and following instructions						
Processing information						
Attention span						
Anxiety						
Sensory factors						
Multi tasking skills						
Self Control						

3. Insights to your child/participant that will better prepare the instructor for working productively together throughout the 2-day driving camp. (please include stressors, aversions, special interests, meltdown scenarios and special accommodations.)
4. What (if any) is your biggest fear of driving?

	ASI
	PER
	RGERS
ζ.	RS
2	101

5.				
	Rate anticipated level of support needed from	High	Medium	Low
	trooper during driving camp			



4. Employment

Necessary Skill Set



"Success begins with finding a way to make money via area of interest or obsession"

-Jennifer Allen





High-Functioning Autism/ Asperger Syndrome

Challenges

- Difficulty perceiving emotional states of others
- Difficulty expressing empathy in ways that others expect or understand
- Executive functioning resulting in difficulties planning long-term tasks
- Sensory integration problems where input may register unevenly, distorted, and difficulty in screening out background noise
- Perceiving unwritten rules of social interaction.
- Grasping the "big" picture

Attributes

- Tendency to be logical (helpful in decision-making where emotions may interfere) honest and loyal
- Contributed to major advances in literature, the arts, computer technology, mathematics, and the sciences.
- memory for facts can be mindboggling!
- Extraordinary ability to focus on one isolated topic without getting distracted by other
- Punctual
- Less concern for what others may think of them (can be a strength and a challenge).
- Average to above average intelligence
- Direct with communication

- 1. Appropriate hygiene and personal appearance is required on most job sites. Maintaining a clean and professional demeanor and dressing appropriately can mean the difference between success and failure during the interview and on the job.
- 2. Practice "the interview" process. Many with ASD associate marketing themselves as lying. SHOW work skills through a portfolio.
- 3. Learning how to handle conflict is critical. Practice and plan for this skill. You can do this through role-playing or modeling.
- 4. Planning for transportation to and from the job site can be one key to a successful job placement. Helping your son or daughter to access public or private transportation is incredibly helpful in determining which jobs are available and accessible.

Resources

A Guide to Employment for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Download here:

https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/employment_tool_kit_parent_booklet.pdf

My Employment Rights - federal laws that protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination in employment and the job application process.

Download here:

https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/etk_my_employment_rights.pdf

Job Interview Tips Download here: https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/etk_job_interview.pdf

Employment Models: What Option is Best for You? Download here: https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/etk_employment_models.pdf

Resumes, Cover Letters and Applications Download here: https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/etk_resumes_cover_letters_and_applications.pdf





5. Living Independently

The Launch



87 percent of adults with autism live with their parents at some point between high school and their early 20s - a far higher percentage than the general population





-A.J. Drexel Autism Institute

Adults With Autism Are Limited in Their Housing Options

•Residential funding for disabled adults is hard to come by. It's especially scarce for autistic adults who are not intellectually disabled. If your IQ is over a certain number (usually 70 or 75), you're assumed to be independent (unless you have a severe physical illness or disability such as blindness).

•Group homes are hard to get into and may be of poor quality. Like many adult programs, group homes depend upon state and federal funding. In addition, staff and residents change constantly.

•Even bright, capable adults with autism are likely to run into problems when faced with unexpected challenges. In general, it's tough for autistic adults to plan ahead (buying soap before needing it,) manage emergencies (the power went out), and think through novel problems (the drain is clogged). These issues often make it cheaper, smarter, and easier to simply stay with mom and dad.



There are a variety of public and private options available to individuals with disabilities that help with both support and subsidy. Here are some categories to help individuals and their families plan a successful transition from family living to independence.

- Dorm-type communities non-profit residential communities that offers transitional and lifetime care to adults with a wide range of cognitive abilities. Example: Marbridge (Austin Tx) For more information: <u>https://www.marbridge.org/who-we-are/</u>
- Apartment Developments- specializing in amenities for residents with ASD. Example: Dave Wright Apartments (Dallas Tx) For more information: <u>https://www.statnews.com/2017/04/08/autism-adults-housing/</u>
- Shared Housing Concept of 4 shared homes with access to community center, farm, greenhouse and pool. The homes have noise-dampening ceilings and quiet heating and air conditioning systems for residents who are hypersensitive to loud sounds. Example: Sweetwater Spectrum (Sonoma California) For more information:

http://www.sweetwaterspectrum.org/home0.aspx



Living Alone



Resource Guides: 31 Skills in 31 Days

For More Information: <u>http://www.artofmanliness.com/2012/09/01/heading-out-on-</u> your-own-31-life-skills-in-31-days-series-wrap-up/

Tips for Adult "Aspies" Living Alone For more information: <u>http://www.adultaspergerschat.com/2014/06/15-tips-adult-aspies-who-live-alone.html</u>





6. Relationships/ Marriage The Logic of Love



Relationship Considerations

•Sexual challenges - Sex may be one of the first things to fall apart in these relationships. Half of the challenge stems from sensory issues, but the other half is the lack of empathy.

•Strain during social settings - Because a person with Asperger's syndrome has difficulty with social skills, the non-Asperger's partner is always ready to swoop in and "save" his or her partner from embarrassment. Socializing can become simply too much work, and the couple stops doing it or the partners start living separate lives.

•Parenting - The non-Asperger's partner is often devastated by the lack of empathy shown to the child. The Asperger's parent may ignore the child, make caustic comments, and not recognize when the child needs comforting. Sometimes the Asperger's parent is overly strict or way too lenient, leaving much of the real parenting up to the non-Asperger's partner. This sets up a parenting battlefield, even though both parents love the child.

Resource:

Coping with a Partner Diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome For more information: <u>https://www.everydayhealth.com/autism/coping-with-a-partners-syndrome.aspx</u>



Julie Coy Manier & Grant Manier



PBS PUBLIC BROADCASTING Featured Grant Manier, February 2017





Author - Artist - Advocate www.JigsawGrant.com



Julie and Grant Grant's Eco-Art

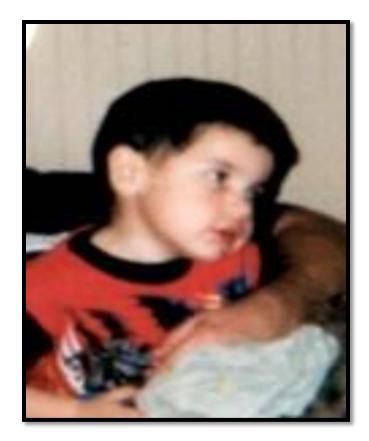


SA GRANT THE JIGSAW GIRAFFE GRANT the Jigsaw Giraffe Different is More **Different is More** Maniér Author: Julie Coy Maniér Long to b Publish by Illustrator: Grant Maniér Foreword by Dr. Temple Grandin









1997, Grant is 2 years old, undiagnosed. Diagnosed at 6 year old in 2001



At the early age of three years old, Grant displayed an obsessive compulsive behavior for lining up his toys in a particular color order for many hours.

Interrupting Grant's routine would lead to an extreme meltdown.





Statistics of Autism

- Divorced
- Sibling Rebellion
- Unemployed



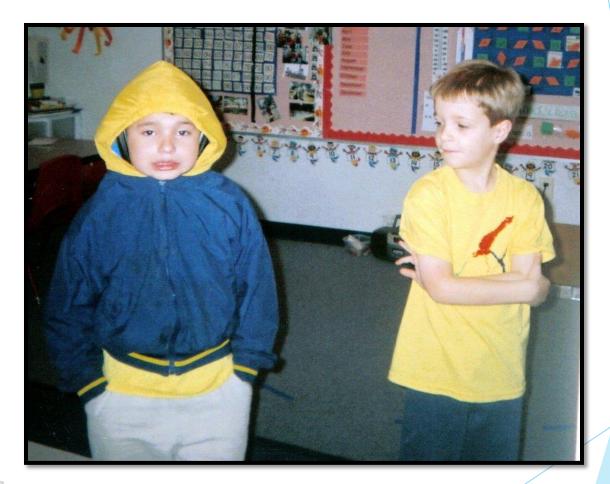
Julie is employed at an Autism School, where she learns about the spectrum and how autism affects each child differently. Teacher's discover Grant's amazing art talent.







The fear of environmental changes interfered with Grant interactions with others and school work.





The sounds of birds chattering, created uncontrollable anxiety.







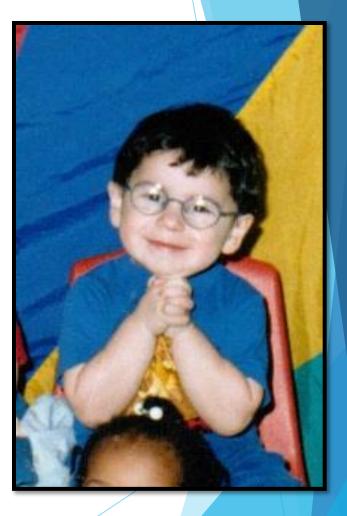
Grant isolated himself. He's overwhelmed by his environment.



Grant loves his paper!



Writing, drawing, coloring, tearing for hours and days.





ART became Grant's outlet to soothe his anxieties.







Grant's life was comfortable at his school for autism. But in 2004 entering public school became a hard reality.





In 2008, Grant is homeschooled. Grant's art evolves in a quiet and calm environment. Eco-art can be created anywhere at anytime. No need for a studio or paint and easy clean up.



Age 14, 2009 Grant's First Eco-Art work





THE SUN GOD

Home School Art Projects





Grant is an award winning Eco-Artist by the age of 15



2011 Austin Rodeo Eco-Art Grand Champion



Shant TI



Grant and Julie begin the journey of exhibiting Grant's Eco-art.



Six years traveling across Texas raising the awareness of environmental responsibility and special needs talents.



2011 First Eco-Art Original Sold \$6400

The Angel Wing

90% of the money invested back into the business and a Play Station for Grant.





Grant's Eco-Art











Non-Profit Art and Literacy Program 501(c)3







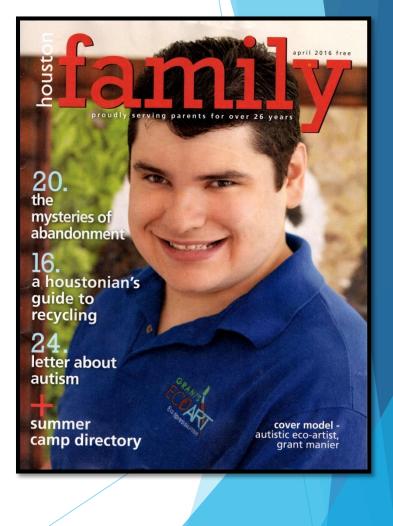


2

Grant becomes a Social Media Buzz











Grant Manier Eco-Impressionist



The Eco-Artist cuts and tears 1000's of pieces of recycle materials, paper and puzzles to create his eco-art.









Eco-Artist at work















Grant serves communities by volunteering. guest speaking, and services.





Grant enjoys sharing his Eco-Art and techniques with others.



Grant is creating a movement among children and adults to recycle and create Eco-Art.



"Defender of the Planet"



You're never to old to tap into your inner-child and create Eco-art.





Grant exhibits his eco-art and gives presentations at schools, gala's, events, and for organizations. Raising awareness and \$\$\$ for great causes.





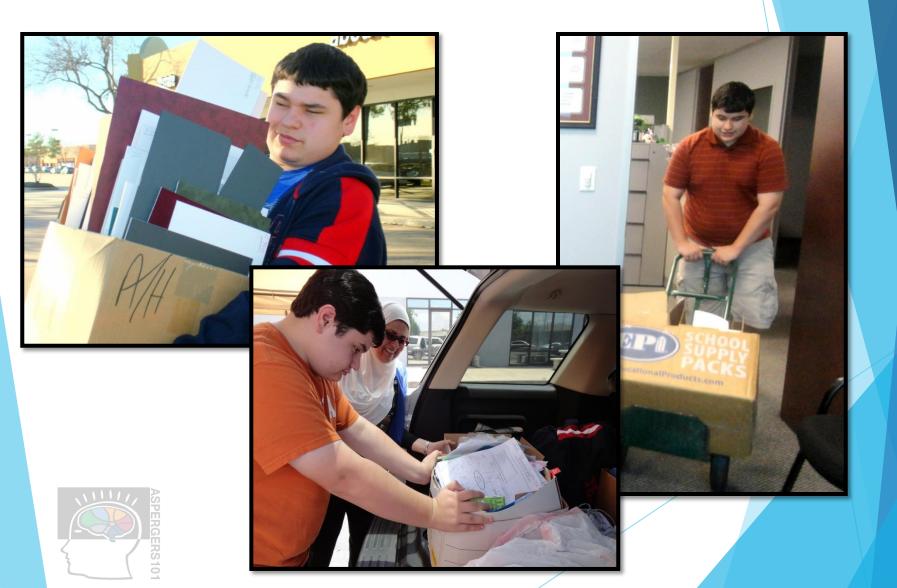


How is an Eco-Art masterpiece created?





Grant travels to schools, businesses, and parking lots to collect recycled materials.



Grant's "Eco-Impressionism" collections includes is signature puzzle style.















Cutting and Tearing over 1000's of pieces of paper and puzzles to create eco-art masterpieces.











The Caribbean Owl, created using over 65 posters of the Caribbean.









The Lady Bug Parade, created using recycled posters, magazines, calendars, wallpaper and puzzles.









Commissioned Artwork for Campbell Concrete. Grant created this piece using recycled posters, wallpaper, photo paper, brochures, magazines, speaker wires, a belt, wooden buttons, Christmas paper, bottle caps, letter appliques, pin stripe tape, and puzzles.



Business Logo's by Grant's Eco-Art. Grant's art sales contribute towards his tuition and therapy.





Texas State "Driving with Autism" automobile decal designed by Grant and Julie





Aspergers 101 and the Texas Public Safety (DPS) have team together to create an educational program using videos, media awareness, and literature to assist in improving the interactions between law enforcement and people with disabilities.

A code will be issued to those who wish to have this on their driver license alerting the first responder of any special needs situation.



www.Aspergers101.org

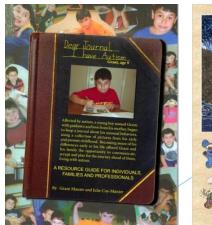
Expanding the business

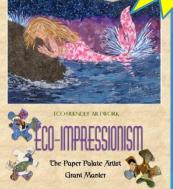


Shower Curtains/Bath Set



Night Lights





Soon

Grant's Books

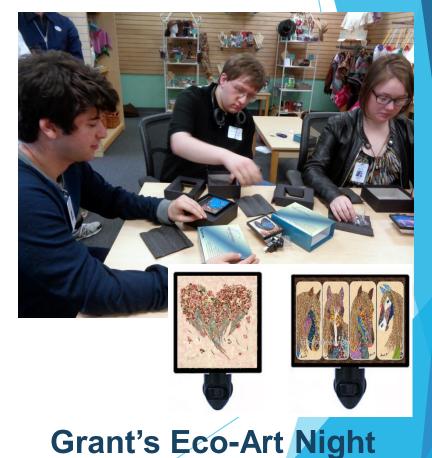
As the business expands there's opportunities for those with special needs to develop job skills by packaging and producing Grant's art and items.

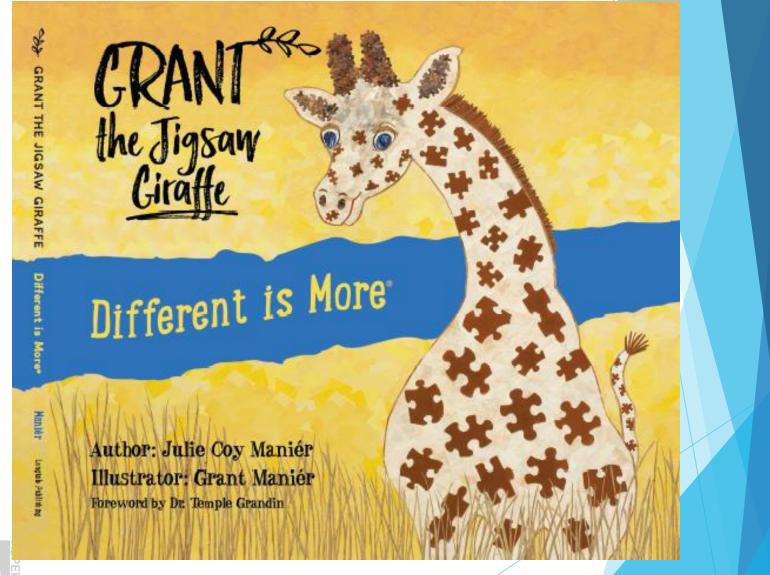
Lights





Grant's Eco-Art Puzzle Rings



























Along their walk, they came to the Orangutan village. "What brings you out this way?" asked Tom.

- "I need inspiration! I want to paint beautiful, colorful masterpieces. But, I can't hold a brush because I have hooves, and my body is a little awkward," Grant said sadly.
- "Well Grant, I know something you can do that would be awesome," said Tom.



"So what seems to be the problem?" asked Grant.

"Well, see those delicious red apples hanging in that tree? They look so good to eat, but mother says I am not to climb the fence," Panda sighed. "I will help you out," said Grant. He walked over to the fence and using his long sticky tongue, he plucked some apples for his friend to enjoy. "Eureka! Problem solved. Grant, you have talent and you are creative. Yes, you're different...but, not less, you're MORE!" said Panda.



Peacock slowly spread his tail feathers. "They are my masterpiece," he said.

Grant admired the beauty and texture of all the colors.

Peacock said, "Grant, you know you have a masterpiece, too. Your puzzle markings are unique and beautiful. Yes, you're different...but, not less, you're MORE!"



The zoo announced a recycle drive for Grant's eco-friendly project. Schools, neighborhoods and businesses had puzzle drives and filled recycle bins with calendars, wallpaper and much more.

"What are you going to call this art, Grant?" asked Ms. Judy. "Well, I am using cool colors, cool shapes and cool textures. I will call my art, *COOLAGES*," said Grant with a smile.



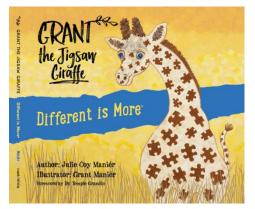
Julie writes her son's story... but he's a giraffe! Grant turns his art into illustrations.



Mr. Becker gives us a sneak peak.

SPONSORS





First Print Autographed books



Jigsaw Giraffe





Foreword by Temple Grandin



Meet the Author, Artist, and Illustrator

FREE digital interactive application.



The dyslexia friendly font, designed for all readers, but allowing those with reading challenges to read this book comfortably.

Heavy baseline, varying ascending/descending links, semi-italics letters, spacing letters, letter configurations, among others, assures that Dyslexie Font offers optimal reading comfort. Results vary.

Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation has partnered with Jigsaw Grant to distribute books throughout their Title One program.





Books on sale at our table.





"We are different, Not Less, We are MORE!"

- Grant Manier



www.GrantsEcoArt.com www.JigsawGrant.com

Julie's Take:

- 1) when you set your goals, you have to set goals for them
- 2) Teach them to buy groceries, early in life (scanner, count money..etc)
- 3) walk to the store with them
- 4) a quirky or out of sync behavior ...could be the message (obsessive tearing and obsession for paper
- 5) You know your child better than most.

6) Our children our products of our environment. What do you do that you can pass on to them (I am a seamstress, Grant learned to cut fancy)

- 7) driving, take your time....but, do it!!
- 8) living independently.....
- 9) travel....teach them things
- 10) spend quality time with them
- 11) don't let them look silly in public...role play
- 12) teach them to budget
- 13) chores....

Test your Independent Living Skills

Department of Social and Health Services Take the Assessment

http://www.sped.sbcsc.k12.in.us/PDF%20Files/tassessments/Independent%20Livi ng/Life%20Skills%20Inventory_Independent%20Living.pdf



This inventory could assist parents, student, teachers, and transition specialists in creating a transition plan according to capability.



- •Money management and consumer awareness
- •Food management
- Personal appearance and hygieneHealth
- Housekeeping
- •Housing
- Transportation

Educational planning

- •Job maintenance skills
- •Job skills
- •Emergency and safety skills
- Knowledge of community resources
- Interpersonal skills
- •Legal issues

Pregnancy (parenting and child care)



Jennifer's Take:

- 1. Prepare, prepare, prepare!
- 2. While They Are Young Develop Life Skills
- 3. Higher Education Building the Foundation
- 4. Mode of Transportation Customize your Choices
- 5. Employment Develop and Implement the Necessary Skill Set
- 6. Living Independently Prepare them for "The Launch"
- 7. Relationships/Marriage Show them the Logic of Love









Panel of Experts:

Dr. Berenice de la Cruz, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Chief Operating Officer Autism Community Network Dema Stout, MA, PCC, CPCC, Greatness Coaching Janet Enriquez, Autism Education Specialist, Region 20 Dr. Ghia Edwards, Psy.D., Behaviorist

Samuel Allen, A.A., College Student diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, Recipient TCASE Student of the Year

Julie Coy Manier & Grant Manier, Co-authors of "Different is More", Eco-Artist

Jennifer Allen, Founder & CEO Aspergers101, Parent of a child with Autism, Author

Message your questions to:





Aspergers101

KABB-TV







Thank you for attending

Asperger Syndrome: From Diagnosis to Independence

This evening has been recorded and will be made available to all online at: www.aspergers101.org/summerseries

