

Andrew's Story

6 years old



Our son Andrew was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at two years and eleven months of age.

At the age of two and a half, prior to his official diagnosis, we started Andrew on a gluten and casein-free diet. Within 3 weeks of implementing the diet, we noticed improved attention and focus.

Andrew received various educational therapies, including ABA, occupational therapy and speech therapy. During this time, Andrew made slow gains in language, cognition and social skills.

At 18 months he had a few words but no functional communication. With educational therapy, he could functionally use 2-3 word sentences, but his communication was all need-based, and much of it was prompted.

He had little interest in playing with other children. He would interact with adults, but very seldom demanded attention.

At age 4, Andrew became a patient of Dr. Neubrander, and we began adding biomedical treatments, one at a time, to his regimen. These included methyl-B12 injections, nutritional supplementation, allergy desensitization, chelation and low-dose naltrexone. He was also diag-

nosed with colitis and reflux by Dr. Krigsman and began treatments for those conditions as well.

With each treatment, we saw mild-to-moderate improvements in Andrew. Andrew was able to speak in full sentences, began using gestures, had an interest in playing with a greater variety of toys and showed significant improvement in motor skills.

His communication was still largely need-based, but he would occasionally comment on things he would see.

Today, at age 6, Andrew has come a long way, but still has much to accomplish. We began HBOT therapy in February 2006. We purchased a soft chamber for home use, and Andrew now typically spends about 7 hours per week in the chamber.

As with most of the biomedical therapies we have tried, I would classify Andrew's overall response to hyperbarics as mild-to-moderate.

After about 20 hours in the chamber, we have noticed an increased awareness in Andrew. He has begun to be more aware of people and requests attention. Previously, he had little interest in his younger sister and would rarely speak to her directly without prompting. He is now more frequently initiating communication with his sister and using her name. He often asks her to sit next to him on the couch to watch a movie.

Occasionally, Andrew asks for help with something. Increasingly, he will use a person's name to get attention, whereas before, he had a lot of trou-

ble using names and differentiating people.

His therapists have all commented on how much happier he is in general, and they all felt he was relatively happy to start with. We noted all of these improvements at a time in which no new therapies had been introduced other than HBOT.



Andrew's picture of baby Einstein—one of many firsts

We had one "Eureka" moment after beginning HBOT. Andrew has always struggled with drawing. It is difficult for him to appropriately grasp a pencil and he has shown no interest in drawing pictures. When asked to draw, he would usually just scribble.

After working for a long time in occupational therapy, the only thing he could draw was the most rudimentary smiley face.

One day, without any prompting and without seeing the character, Andrew picked up his magnetic doodle pad and drew a recognizable picture - the logo character from the Baby Einstein movies. He repeated this multiple times and has been able to draw a picture of a mouse after seeing it on a video.

Andrew is now grasping a pencil correctly, has shown dramatic improvement in handwriting and has a real interest in writing. We are encouraged by the changes we have seen since beginning HBOT and plan to continue indefinitely with the treatment.

Doctor's Note:
Key points: Andrew was never able to draw or use fine motor skills the way he has been able to do after starting HBOT. [picture of child and picture of drawing included - last paragraph explains the significance

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