

Chris' Story

6 years old



I am the parent of a 6.5 year old autistic boy. Our son was diagnosed as being severely autistic at the age of 3.5. He also suffers from extremely low muscle tone. We started biomedical interventions with Dr. Neuberger a week after Chris' 4th birthday. Over the course of trying many, many things there are three major players that have emerged in our effort to recover our beautiful child—Methyl B12 (MB12) injections, IV-EDTA chelation, and mHBOT.

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over, pick him up and take him out of the room and he would act like he was never engaged in that activity. He never cried or laughed. He did not move much because he was so weak. I could come or go—it really did not matter.

Christopher was really pleasant but also passive and frail. I did not realize how frightened I was by his passivity until he started “waking up.” We have witnessed an awakening with MB 12. Some of the major highlights with MB12 have been eye contact, awareness of others, emotions (and boy does he have them!) and an increase in receptive language.

He started doing better in school and was able to learn a picture communication system and a basic routine. His gross motor improved dramatically. Chris can finally walk up and down the stairs without assistance.

After the new year, we started IV EDTA chelation. We have been pull-

ing significant amounts of lead out of his system. We have seen leaps in expressive language. Christopher is attempting new words and sounds on

a daily basis. He is imitating signs more accurately and his receptive language has now soared. We can speak to him with more difficult descriptive terms such as over, around, behind, in, out. His apraxia is still there but he is constantly mastering new sounds and doing more on an oral motor basis.

mHBOT has been another “player” added this spring. We have a chamber in our home and have completed approximately 27 hour-long dives. Without making other changes to Chris' program, we have seen some encouraging developments since the introduction of this intervention.

Specifically, Chris has a self awareness now. He is attempting socialization with classmates and his family. Chris' communicative efforts used to be limited to getting what he needed—we were all instrumental in his world.

The other day, he walked up to me with a flashcard of a dog. He looked at me smiling, pointed to the picture and said “og” then looked back and smiled. We had a little exchange. Then he left and came back with a flashcard of a cat. He pointed to the picture and said “ca” and smiled at me for my approval. We have moments of joint reciprocity like this all the time now. It's nice to be sharing in your child's joy instead of being thought of as a means to an end.

After a gym activity in school, Chris spontaneously ‘high-5’ed’ all his classmates. That is unheard of for him. He says ‘hi’ without prompting. He knows all his classmates in circle without any picture cues. He is recognizing patterns, letters and numbers. For example, he was doing an

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obstacle course in gym and after only two circuits he did the third without any prompting.

Chris is also starting pre-reading skills. He is starting the beginning of letter writing. Learning is coming more easily for him. He is doing so well. All of this started this spring. His speech therapist always says “Chris has really changed”. The other day at his speech therapist's, he knocked on her door and she said “Who is it?”, and our son answered “Chris!”

He is aware of my presence and absence. One day at school another parent came to get her child. When Chris saw the parent, he started calling out for me. He is starting to solve problems. He wanted to get in a swing at OT but it was too high. His OT just said, “Hmmm, Chris, what should we do?” Chris found a small chair and pulled it over to the swing, climbed the chair and tried to get into the swing.

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In school, Chris has much better attention and is sitting longer and completing tasks. Before, if he failed, he would try to get up and run away or stare into space. Now he is trying over and over again and very proud of his new found success. We are very happy to see his continued progress and excited that the future looks so much more promising for him.

We have seen advancements in fine and gross motor development as well as some advancements in spatial awareness. Specifically, Chris can now put his socks on. He is also using real scissors whereas before, he could only cut with spring release scissors. He is cutting fairly decent lines and using his free hand to stabilize the paper. He was not doing this before the mHBOT started.

In addition, Christopher is imitating block patterns and starting pre-buttoning skills and doing very well. He is now lacing lace boards. His hand (palm) strength is

increasing. He is starting to isolate his fingers (i.e. holding one finger up). All his therapists have indicated that he is now ready to start handwriting skills using the *Handwriting without Tears* program. This was not an option before hyperbarics.

His gross motor strength continues to improve. Chris can now ride a three wheeled scooter. He is climbing up slides and motor planning, throwing his leg over the top to climb down the stairs. He can now stand on a large

therapy ball and march while holding his therapist's hands. Before, he would sit down real fast because it was so unstable he was afraid to shift his weight.

He can now climb out of the mHBOT chamber without assistance. In the beginning, I had to lift him out. Now he swings one leg over the side, holds the edge of the chamber and then swings the other leg over. He is becoming a very fast runner (much to his mother's dismay!).

We feel all of his interventions are helping, but it has been quite a dynamic spring since the mHBOT commenced!

Respectfully Yours,
Chris' Mom

Key points: Mild HBOT therapy works for all degrees of autism, even children with severe cases. Importantly it works with all of the major areas of the brain to improve executive functions, speech and language, socialization and emotion, and motor skills and planning.
