

Joseph's Story

4 years old



Our Joseph developed normally, met all of his milestones, began speaking at 12 months and understanding language at 7 months. His regression into Autism was very gradual until the age of 15 months, when shortly after, that he was completely unreachable.

We noticed the changes taking place at about 12 months old when his bowel movements began to be less frequent, dry, hard and gritty like sand. He would tantrum and scream for no reason when he had to go to the bathroom. He also developed a chronic cough, which no doctor could

conclusively answer *why* he had it or *what* was causing it.

He was obsessed with letters, numbers and puzzles. At 24 months he was completing puzzles (on his own) for ages 4-7. He was able to write every letter of the alphabet and knew numbers up to 40. He even could write 3 letter words and his name.

Joseph had no interest in people, would not look at anyone, and it was impossible to get him to cooperate or notice me when I entered the room. He was completely unaware of anything going on around him. He stuck his finger in the vacuum cleaner while it was running, the vacuum brush peeled the skin off his finger and he hardly cried. I knew

something was wrong.

He would not wear clothes and would take his clothes off out in our yard and run around naked. He would climb over a 4 foot chain-link fence just to get into our neighbors garage to push around his snow blower.

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Joseph even ran away. Two blocks from our house a crossing guard grabbed him and called the police at the same time I was calling 911.

When he was 2 ½, he was diagnosed with Autism. Joseph had no receptive language, did not know his name, crashed into things all day long and would spin around until he fell on the floor. He had no expressive language and no eye contact. Worst of all, his diet was limited to

milk and baked goods (i.e.: breads, cakes, granola bars and cookies).

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we tried was the gluten-free/casein-free diet. Joseph woke up one morning "cold turkey" from all dairy and gluten. It was so difficult but worth the efforts. My son's chronic cough (the one no one could figure out) disappeared after

2 weeks and he actually began to pass stool, not just pellets and sand. The stool wasn't formed, it was more like mush, but at least he was passing something more than pellets.

I also read about a group of medical practitioners who formed a group called DAN! (Defeat Autism Now!). Fortunately for Joseph, there was a DAN! doctor right in our very own town. I called, set up an appointment and got the ball rolling. We met with Dr. Neubrandner, and our first biomedical intervention was to start the methyl-B12 shots every 3 days.

We saw amazing things with the shots. His early intervention therapist immediately noticed that he was able to sit for longer periods of time during sessions. Shortly after that, we began adding supplements.

One thing that sticks out in my mind is a time when Joseph's older brother Nicholas offered Joseph one of 2 lollipops (a red and a purple). He asked Joseph, "Do you want the red or the purple?" and Joseph answered, "Give me blue!" This happened after Joseph's 3rd methyl-B12 shot. The fact that up until then, Joseph had no history of expressive language made this occurrence very exciting and made all of the efforts of the diet and the anxiety over giving shots well worth it.

In addition to the diet, methyl-B12 injections and supplements, Joseph started chelation therapy. When he

began chelating, Joseph was not "dumping" high quantities of toxic metals, however, we noticed that with each round of chelation his body was beginning to let go of metals. We were noticing gains in socialization, language and communication.

Joseph began seeing a pediatric gastroenterologist familiar with the GI issues in ASD children. After upper and lower endoscopies, Joseph was diagnosed with lymphoid nodular hyperplasia. He was given a medication for bowel inflammation and the behaviors associated with his bowel movements faded; his posturing prior to going to the bathroom went as well. Gains we associated with the elimination of GI issues were better focusing ability, elimination of tantrums before bowel movements, and a happier overall disposition. After these initial gains we restricted his diet even more, eliminating starches, which also seemed to help his GI issues.

However, even with all these new treatments, many things were still amiss. We could not get our son to make eye contact, or to use appropriate social skills. He would not ride a bicycle, but would run alongside it while pushing it. He still would not acknowledge people as they entered the room. His GI symptoms were inconsistent, even though he was on the GI medicine, and his abstract thinking was not where it should have been for a 4-year old child.

In December 2005, we began HBOT in the soft chamber at Dr. Neubrandner's office. After 3 dives, we immediately noticed an increase in eye contact. By the time Joseph completed 42 dives, his progress was amazing.

We saw improvement in all of Joseph's most difficult issues. He began initiating play, following his older brother everywhere and imitating everything he did. Even now wherever Nicholas goes, Joseph is trailing right behind him. Joseph even began sharing toys with his little sister Erika. He gets 2 baby strollers, one for him and one for Erika and he tells her

"Come on, let's race!", and they race around the house together sharing laughs.

His little sister Erika received a tricycle for her birthday. When Joseph saw it, he immediately got on the tricycle and started peddling. He is now riding a bicycle without training wheels! He tries to keep up with the big kids calling, "Wait for me!"

In addition, Joseph now responds to his name and gives direct eye contact when he is called. His teacher said every time someone enters the classroom Joseph greets them with "hello", followed by their first name or title.

His inconsistent bowel issues resolved, and he has formed normal regular daily bowel movements. His abdomen looks less bloated more often.

Joseph's abstract thinking has increased. When he was in his therapy session, he drew a picture of trees with swirls in the sky around the trees. His therapist asked him what he was drawing and his response was, "I'm drawing the wind."

Joseph's progress has been amazing and gives me hope for recovering my son. I have seen tremendous improvements and gains since beginning biomedical intervention for treating Joseph's Autism. The gains alone from using hyperbaric oxygenation have been the most dramatic. I look forward to the gains he'll make as we reintroduce

HBOT therapy again.

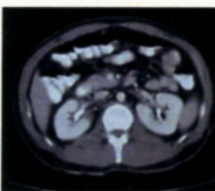
Donna!

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Doctor's Notes:

For years practitioners familiar with biomedical treatments for autism have believed there to be a "gut-brain connection". As you can see,



HBOT is bridging the gap between this gut-brain disconnect and provides a valuable treatment option that not only works to heal the gut, but also works to heal the brain as it relates to executive functioning, speech and language, socialization and emotion, as well as motor skills and planning.