

## Matthew's Story

4 years old



Matthew was diagnosed with Autism at 2 years old. I will never forget the day I was told that my 2 year old son was developmentally at a nine month old level. Matthew was an extremely happy baby. He had a great personality.

However, he was sick very often, had constant gastrointestinal problems and did not say a word. He seemed to be content in his own little world. I started doing my own research and networking with other parents.

At 2 ½ years old, Matthew had his first appointment with Dr. Neubrandner. I will never forget the date June 27, 2004. It was the first time since he was diagnosed that I felt like a "doctor" actually listened to my concerns and instincts as a mother.

Matthew was started on Methyl B12 shots every 3 days. Immediately we saw changes in Matthew. It was like all of a sudden he woke up. We went from having a child who was a "go with the flow" kind of kid to having a child who refused to get in the bath tub and threw himself on the ground so he would not have to go to school. It was quite a difference.

We also began to notice that for the first time, Matthew started to begin to make sounds and say words. At that point, he was diagnosed with severe apraxia. He was trying to talk, but the words couldn't come out.

There were many other positive changes that came after beginning Methyl B12—following directions, sitting and completing tasks better and longer. We knew we were on the right path.

Three months after starting Methyl B12, Matthew had a colonoscopy with another doctor and tested positive for Lymphnodular Hyperplasia. He was put on Colozal to help control the inflammation in his gastrointestinal tract. There were several times when it had gotten so bad that Matthew needed to be treated with rounds of steroids. With the help of this specialist and under a very strict diet and supplementation, we began to get his GI issues under control. However, it was a constant battle, and Matthew would continue to regularly have diarrhea.

In May of 2005, Matthew began chelation with transdermal DMPS. Over the first six months we saw gradual improvements.

After 8 months of chelation, we had decided to start doing mild HBOT at Dr. Neubrandner's office. Matthew had no problems at all getting into the chamber and tolerating it. We let him watch his favorite video while he was inside as long as he wore his mask.

After the first four dives, or first week, we saw a little bit of hyperactivity and more self-stimulatory behaviors than normal. After the second week, we began to see increased language, more awareness and an overall sense of him being "present".

I remember my husband and I looking at each other with amazement over simple things that we would ask Matthew to do, that he could never do without help before. Things like "get your shoes, get your coat, go on the potty," and many more simple commands with which he previously needed help. He was now doing those things...and all by himself.

The next major benefit from mild HBOT was for the first time ever Matthew was having consistently perfect poops! They were, as I like to say, 'beautiful'—to a parent who's child

had had diarrhea since infancy—they were beautiful! After only two weeks of going in the chamber, Matthew's battle with diarrhea had been won. He continues to have wonderful poops.

Matthew has completed over 40 sessions of hyperbarics. He is making progress that I never thought was possible. At four years old, when I ask him who I am, he says "mommy".

If you told me a year ago that Matthew would soon be able to call me mommy.... I would have said that if he never uttered a word again I would be happy with just that. To hear my child who was once nonverbal call me "mommy" is more than I could have ever hoped for. I guess you have to live this life to understand that.

Overall, Matthew's vocabulary has exploded, his personality has exploded, his awareness and his overall learning process have improved tremendously. Everyone in his life can not believe how well he is doing and how much he has changed. Our family, his teachers, therapist are constantly commenting on how much progress Matthew is making.

I purposely did not tell anyone at his school that we had started mHBOT. Within the first two weeks, his teacher was telling me "WOW, Matthew seems so different, he's getting things so much faster and he's talking so much more". *There was my proof.*

In conclusion, I had once referred to Matthew's journey through Autism as a dial. This is how I have viewed his progress: at the beginning, this dial was turned OFF!!! With the help of

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Methyl B12, his dial slowly began to turn, and Matthew began to tune into the world around him. With chelation, the dial turned a little bit more.

Then mHBOT began, and Matthew has made undeniable progress since starting mHBOT. Our family is look-

ing forward to continuing mHBOT for Matthew along with all of his biomedical treatments.

We are so grateful for Matthew's progress. We are also so thankful for Dr. Neubrandner's guidance and his compassion for these children.

There are not enough doctors in this world like Dr. Neubrandner.

#### Doctor's Note:

*In addition to executive functioning, speech and language, and socialization, mild HBOT definitely can help the chronic diarrhea and bowel problems so common with autism.*