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## Simon Bruce

7 years old

We recently started HBOT with our son Simon, diagnosed with autism at the age of two and a half. Now, seven years old and with the options of therapies running out, we have come across hyperbarics.

My son is currently on medications for aggression and anxiety. At a walk for autism last summer in Madison, while my husband was busy waiting in line for the jumpolene, I saw a vendor for hyperbarics.

On the way home, I read about some of the success stories and was definitely intrigued and curious if this could work for our son. The stories of hyperbaric improvements impressed me profoundly, and I would read them on occasion, hoping we would be able to try this for our son.

We were concerned about what was

going to happen—this was so new to us. We went for a consultation, and the staff at the center gave us a tour and made our son feel comfortable. The technicians offered suggestions to help with transitioning Simon into the chamber. We were able to see other people in the chambers. I think this made Simon feel more at ease. Needless to say, Simon was in the chamber within 5 minutes or so on our first visit.

Simon definitely slept well the first night; he went to bed at 10 p.m. In the past, some nights he wouldn't go to bed until midnight, waking for school at 8 am, which would be a challenge to wake him up after a long night of being up late.

After the third dive, Simon said

'spaceship' as he watched Star Wars. This was spontaneous, unprompted and never mentioned to him by us. As clear as a bell, he said 'spaceship'.

**"We are only on our 11th dive.**

**At school, they are noticing less refusal to do his work."**

We are only on our 11th dive. At school, they are noticing less refusal to do his work. At our last IEP meeting, they were talking about decreasing his day or to try to place him at another school. I was losing hope about him even attending school. I believe the small amount of hyper-

barics has helped at school.

Self-stimulatory behaviors are starting to decrease as well. Simon would slap the TV, and although he still does it, it is not to the same degree.

I can only foresee improvements with continued HBOT.

*Colleen Bruce*

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