

WORLD OF AN AUTISM

by:
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Autistic, special child, abnormal.... These are the words being addressed to a person having an autism spectrum disorder. Far beyond the usual ways of a normal person that we encounter every day. Some of us are not even aware of their hidden attitudes and capabilities towards themselves and to other people. General percentage of the population does not have any information on how to deal with the so called ASD persons. The state that every parent do not want to come about for their child upon giving birth. Even doctors or researchers do not know the exact reason why autism happen. But it is much known that it may be caused thru hereditary, genetic problem and medical problem.

For me, environmental effects must also be included now that it is becoming worst. Our way of living, which pertains to taking care of our health, may also have an immense contribution. The reason why I also believed that the last two factors had a vital part in autism origination was because I experienced it personally. He was my nephew, the son of my sister, in where he also had an abnormality in his sexual organ. It was very distinct in their physical appearance are far beyond the normal child. Upon giving birth to "Paldong", our special angel (not his real name), it was very visible that he have an abnormality physically. Paldong's organ was not fully developed not knowing that it also had an adverse effect on his whole well-being. We did not undergo him to a newborn screening that is way we have not notice that he will become one of a few special baby.

All of us had to kneel and ask God's blessings for him to slowly recuperate. In those times of hopelessness, God is our only salvation even there was a questionable things in our mind... why us Lord? Why it has to be him. Why He permits to happen this

things to a child... but, God knows what is best for us, He will not give undertakings to us that we cannot handle or surpass.

As Paldong grew up he developed a strange tantrums. One is by pulling our hair, pinching us, throwing any objects that he can grasp, pinching his nails through our skin until he becomes stable or calm. We also have a coping mechanism because of his strange habit towards us, as we all know autistic person has a powerful strength than other people. When he is having his tantrums we are all aware and attentive to him so we can avoid his naughty hands that may hurt us. Sometimes we teach him how to handle his emotion by placing his hands on his hair or to himself when his tantrums arise but it is not easy for him to easily learn those techniques. The cause of their tantrums is usually caused by a sense of overload. They have no control over their reaction and they may not be able to tell us how they really feel. But, we can learn what triggers their tantrums for us to be prepared.

On the other hand, as Paldong grows we saw improvements that came to a later part of his existence. He can now manage to grab things very well, so little by little we give him some easy task that he can do. Some examples are throwing trash to the bin, passing some pieces of stuff to other people, arranging our pillows on the bed, putting water in his glass, and placing his clothes and pampers in the laundry. Those are some of the things that he can do that we discover in him and we are really thankful to God for answering our prayers piece by piece. He also had his hidden qualities that we all loved, sometimes Paldong was a very sweet, caring, and thoughtful in his own ways. When he sees someone who cries in our family he usually kiss and hug them. Every morning he always want to go to our room and try to wake us by inserting his pointing finger inside our nose (we didn't where he learned that), it was his unique technique so he can have an instant playmate. There is also some things that I notice to our special angel, he is so affectionate to those people who gives him tenderly care and love. Especially to his cousins or to her sisters, considering the fact that he is the only child of my sister so my

daughters treat him as their own brother. His everyday routinely work was to eat, sleep and watching different you tube movie or cartoons. The funny thing was he can personally operate a cellphone all by himself and when he does that we consider it as our free time from his naughtiness. The additional milestone that we also consider was his being talkative but in a different way because he just only produce sounds and not the proper way to speak. He knows when to make “Mano” to us when we arrive after work. He also use to attend mass online and its sequence from start to finish and it’s truly amazing for us seeing him closer to God.

We use to bring him to a specialist in order for us to have an understanding on his defect, on how to deal with it and to him personally but unfortunately he just suffered mistreatment in the facility in where he could slowly learn. So my parents decide not to continue the free treatment and just let him stay in our house for us to be the one who will educate him. Now, our special child was already a big boy, ready to face the new challenges that he will be able to learn through our hardworking effort and with the blessing of our Lord all mighty. Together with our love for him we can surpass all the trial in our lives.

References:

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