

SPECTRUM UPDATES

April-June 2012

The End of the Spectrum: Helping Families Find Solutions to their Autism Housing Needs.

Dear Friends,

I am frequently asked how I persevere with this work when the challenge is so great and the progress so slow.... There are many days when I wonder if I am up to the task and if things will ever change for our children. Thirty years ago this fall my father died of Leukemia. If he had been diagnosed today his chances for full recovery would be very good. Someone carried the torch of that research and change, and we will continue to carry the torch for our children. My hope is that thirty years from now the autism landscape, and housing in particular, will look completely different and be exceedingly more optimistic.

Hope everyone is enjoying summer.

Best,

Sheryl Grassie / Executive Director

A Perfect Day



Every once in a while circumstances converge to create a perfect day with our children. My son Seth, his PCA and I recently had that experience while completely alone for an afternoon at the Carey Lake public beach in Hibbing, Mn.

Comorbidity

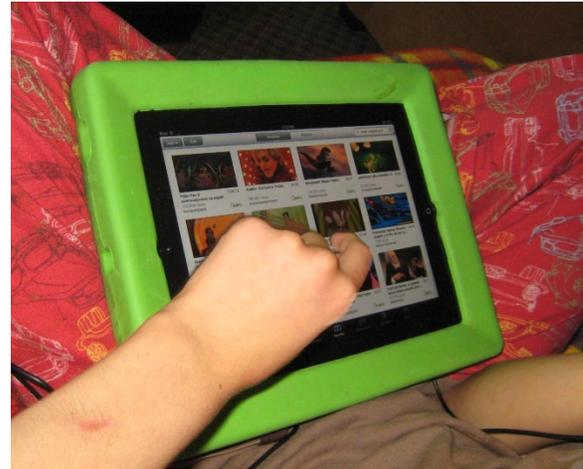
Definition: pertaining to two diseases which occur together, such as ADHD and depression. With autism there are a host of comorbid disorders that accompany the sensory dysfunction our children experience. One very common comorbid condition is Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Many of our children experience some form of OCD that can express itself in a myriad of ways.



Nora spends hours ordering her plastic dishes as part of her Obsessive Compulsive needs.

Proloquo2Go

If you haven't heard of it, Proloquo2Go is an award winning software program for iPad and iPhone, designed to impact communication and learning for individuals with autism. There are numerous instructional videos on YouTube so you can easily check it out. For many children it has exponentially increased learning.



Thinking your child will destroy an iPad? Protective cases are readily available and inexpensive. The one pictured above has been repeatedly thrown across the room with no resulting damage.

End of Session Legislation

At the time of our last newsletter we were waiting for Governor Dayton to sign off on our Autism Housing Bills. There was continued opposition resulting in numerous meetings and, in the long run, a compromise had to be reached. In the Autism Campus Bill HF2252/SF1882 we had asked DHS for a "plan" and ended up with a "study" on the need and best types of housing for autism, to be completed by February 2013. They also verbally agreed to work with Spectrum and incorporate our extensive research. Stay Tuned.....

We are still raising money for the documentary with TPT, consider donating!

Thank You to everyone who supports work with autism in Minnesota!