



My journey as a mother to a 3-year-old son with autism has been both challenging and rewarding. The hurdles of accessing adequate services through early intervention and CPSE have tested my resilience, while the invasive process of applying for OPWDD services has often felt like an uphill battle. Through unwavering determination, I have found my voice in advocating for my son, engaging in heartfelt discussions with doctors about medication management to ensure his well-being.

Understanding and meeting my child's unique wants and needs became my priority, deepening our bond in ways I never thought possible. Finding a daycare that I wholeheartedly trusted was a pivotal moment in our story, providing a safe and nurturing environment for my son to thrive. Despite the lack of support in some areas, I have forged a tight-knit circle of individuals within my community who offer unwavering understanding and compassion, creating a sanctuary of support where we can flourish.

Autism awareness is a cause close to my heart, one that I champion not just in April but throughout the year. It's a journey of education, empathy, and acceptance, reminding us all that every individual deserves to be understood and supported, regardless of the month on the calendar. Through my experiences, I hope to shed light on the beauty and challenges of autism, fostering a community where love and understanding prevail, year-round.