



Looking Out My Window

By: Michael A. Mace

Looking out my window is about kids with autism and what it's like being a twin brother of someone with autism. It's about what autism is and how kids with autism act different.

It's also about how they must feel and why other kids should get to know and be friends with kids with autism.

My name is Michael Mace. I have a twin brother his name is Austin. Austin has a disability called Autism. Autism is a thing you are born with. It is hard having a twin brother with autism. This story is about me, Austin, and maybe even you.

I was sad when I learned Austin has autism. I remember about 3 years ago when I was about 6 telling my mom that “I don’t think I can handle it when I’m grown up if I have to take care of a wife with kids and Austin too. She said, “that’s why we work so hard to help him learn.”

Autism is a disability that means you are different than other people. Kids with autism have a hard time talking in a way that let's people know what they want or need.

People with autism have a hard time learning how to make friends and learning things like taking turns and waiting for their turn to talk.

Sometimes people with autism practice talking by echoing or by saying lines from movies or other things they hear.

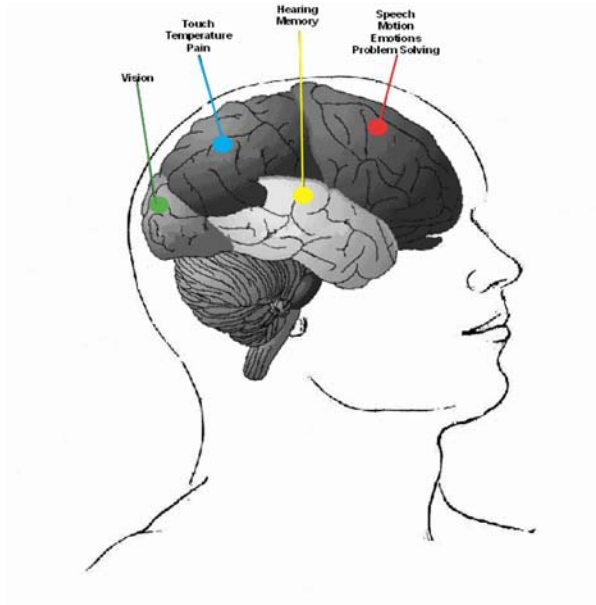
A lot of people with autism have problems with understanding what people mean or rules for things.

Some people with autism have sensory problems too, that's when they don't feel things, hear things or smell things the same as we do.



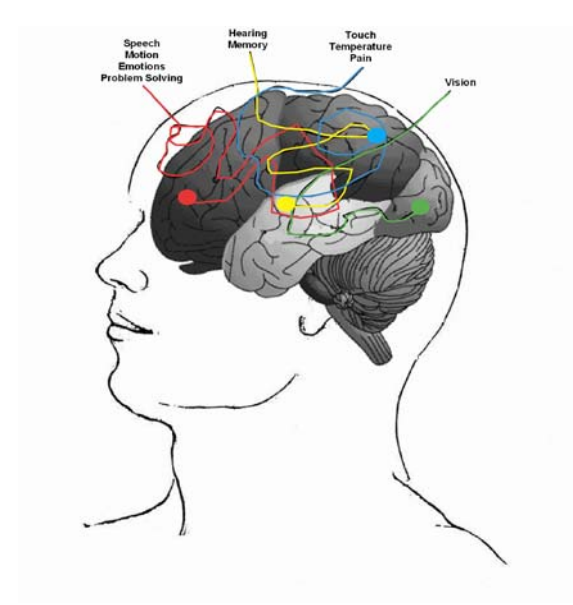
Autism means your brain works different than other peoples so things are harder to learn and do.

Regular People



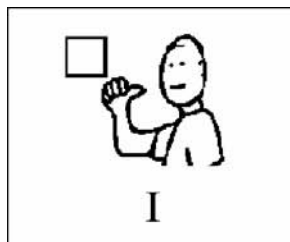
When most people Hear, See, or Touch something it goes straight to the part of the brain that it needs to

People with Autism Brain



When people with autism Hear See or Touch Something, sometimes the message gets mixed up or doesn't get to where it needs to go as fast. Like getting lost when you're driving in a car

Me and Austin are really different and alike. Sometimes I go crazy because he hits me and spits and screams at me. But he does that because that's the only way he knows to share his feelings. Austin can't use his words as well as most kids, so he can't tell you that he's mad or to just go away. Because he can't use his words as good as we do sometimes he uses pictures.



There are also a lot of times we have fun together. Like when we dance, and play video games, and basketball. We like to do a lot of the same things, sometimes Austin needs a little help or we play things a little different, but I think that's okay.

Sometimes it makes me sad when I am playing with my friends outside and Austin is looking out the window from inside because I think he would like to play too, but every once in awhile my friends and I play inside with Austin it makes me my friends and Austin feel really good.

Even though there are a lot of times it's hard to have a brother with autism there are also a lot of times I am really proud of Austin. Just a couple of days ago he took a shower on his own and washed his hair which is a really big thing because he used to hate getting his hair wet and washing it. And I am really proud because he can tell me that and it makes me feel really really special. I like to help teach him new things.



Playing with friends

Austin and I are different from each other, but being different isn't a bad thing. There are things that are hard for everybody and things that everybody is good at. I'll tell you about some things that me and Austin are that we are good at and things that are hard for both of us and ways that we can all help each other.



Playing baseball together

Things that are hard for me

Seeing other kids who play games like catch and basketball with their brothers and sisters.

My brother needs sooo much attention that my mom and dad always have to stop what they're doing with me to go check on him

Sometimes it's embarrassing to have my friends over because of how Austin acts.

My mom is always too busy doing things with autism and Austin and doesn't spend enough time with me.

I can't watch a movie with Austin because he always has to rewind and fast forward all of the movies.

Things that I think are hard for Austin

Not being able to join sports teams and stuff like I do because it's hard for him to follow the rules on a whole team.

Not getting invited to go to birthday parties or sleepovers.

Not getting to go to sports games or go play in the neighborhood. He stays at home a lot just watching movies

Not having many friends and not knowing how to make them

Not knowing what to do or understanding stuff as easy so he gets stuck in learning

There are some things that I can do better than Austin

I can play sports better

I can make friends easier

I can talk to and understand my mom and dad
and friends easier

I know how to stay safe and take care of myself better

I can play video games better (but he's good too)

I play guitar better

There are some things that Austin does better

He plays piano better

He knows more songs and dances

He memorizes movie lines better than I do

He figures out electronic things better

He does chores better

He makes his own breakfast better than I do

There a lot of things that we both like

Amusement Parks



Parties

Pizza

Friends

Presents

Ice Cream

Going Places

Sledding

Swimming

Mac & Cheese

Playing

Things I do to help Austin

I help him by playing with him and doing things he likes to do sometimes and also teaching him that we can't do things he likes to do all of the time that sometimes we should get to do some things I like to do.

I help keep him safer, like making sure he doesn't run into the road or do other things that could hurt him.

I also help by giving presentations about autism to kids in schools. It helps Austin when other kids understand autism better.



Giving a presentation at Grove School

How People Can and Do help

Sometimes older kids help Austin do things like crafts that he can't do very well by himself

He has a friend Josh who helps him learn by playing with him. I do that too and wish other kids would but they just don't understand kids like Austin.

Austin has an assistant in his classroom who helps him learn math, reading, and writing. He has kids at school who are "buddies" who help him learn how to play and do things like other kids

I wish all kids would learn about and help kids with autism because then they would understand me and my brother better.

Things Austin Helps Me With

He helps me learn about kids with autism

He teaches me songs I don't know

He teaches me to be more patient than other kids my age

He teaches me to be more understanding about people who are different



Working together at College for Youth

How to help someone with autism

Talk slower and use simple words

Don't give too many things to do at once

Pictures and schedules help

Invite them to parties

Don't treat them like babies, because they have feelings too

Don't tease or be mean because that's just not nice

Be a Role Model

Talk to them about stuff they like

Be a friend and help your friends who have brothers and sisters with autism.



Me and Austin

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3rd Grade

Colene Hoose

Mrs. Hoder

2006