
*This is an article that was submitted by one of our own.
She has experienced in her own life something we all hope
won't happen in our lives.*

*See how she and her family handled the situation.
We welcome articles from other graduates that will educate and encourage others.*

Autism Spectrum Disorders

by Edie Gohlke Bourland (Class of '61) and her daughter, Patti Devlin

The children with Autism that I had seen in Home Care didn't give me much hope when my little grandson, Sean, was diagnosed with autism at twenty months. His first year was normal, aside from acid-reflux issues. My daughter, Patti, noticed that Sean had quit waving "bye-bye," didn't point at objects, had limited eye contact, seemed to be in his own little world, oblivious to anything else around him – even loud noises or his name being called. He cried a lot, slept and ate poorly, and generally seemed to be a very unhappy little boy. His smile was gone and his babbling stopped. His balance was affected and he frequently tripped over nothing and ran into things.

Sean was examined by several pediatricians, who told Patti that he was "fine" – she was just an "over-concerned" mother. An audiology check revealed no hearing problem. Fortunately, Patti had heard about Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) in Texas and she requested an eval-



uation. At sixteen months of age, Sean's speech development was at a six-month level and his cognitive skills were at an eight-month level. Several in-home therapies were started – OT, and speech. The services of a child developmental specialist, who worked with Sean, were started. This specialist also taught Patti how to improve communication with him; and small

improvements were noted.

At age twenty-one months, Sean was placed on a casein-free (dairy-free) diet. In less than 24 hours, there were dramatic changes. He began signing the word "more" frequently. This he had done only rarely. He began tapping on Mom and Dad to get their attention. Then a gluten-free diet was added and he continued to improve. He received, and continues to receive, Bio-set enzymes as ordered by a naturopathic (DAN!) practitioner ("Defeat Autism Now!"). This practitioner has also done electromagnetic clearings of offending food groups, vita-

mins, and minerals. At twenty-six months, Sean was seen by a neuro-otolaryngologist who has treated several thousand children with symptoms like Sean's since 2003. After testing, he diagnosed Sean with a severe viral inner ear problem related to the measles immunization that had been given at age twelve months. Sean then had cortisone therapy to decrease the inflammation and is now on long-term antiviral medications. The good news is that Sean has no brain or nerve damage and the doctor expects him to be nearly normal in 1^{1/2} years! Sean will begin hyperbaric oxygen chamber treatments and chelation treatments to detoxify his

system of heavy metals. We give thanks to God, early intervention and the therapies!

In March of this year Sean had a 50 word-plus vocabulary, babbled most of the time, knew the ABC's, and he recognized and said numbers 0-10. He was very interactive, played better, made eye contact, laughed, drew faces, waved, and frequently pointed to objects in books. Now in mid-April, Sean counts to 20, sings eight songs, has several three-word phrases and can say "no" and "stop" appropriately! This all is occurring in a very short time.

RESOURCES

*In addition to prayer by ourselves, and prayer by many others,
Patti found the following resources helpful:*

WEBSITES

www.autismwebsite.com/ari/index.htm

www.autism-society.org

www.gfcdiet.com.

BOOKS

Autism: Effective Biomedical Treatments
by Jon B. Pangborn, Ph.D. and Sidney M. Baker, M.D.

Overcoming Autism
by Lynn Kern Koegel, Ph.D. and Claire LaZebnik

Note from the Author: I wanted to write this so you can share some hope and resources with others who may be facing similar difficulties. Don't give up!
