



BELIEF + ACCESS = SUCCESS

Will Packer



The World of AUTISM in One Place

I am keenly aware how much EDUCATION matters, however while I know access matters, I was reminded of just how much this weekend. During a function I attended, one of the keynote speakers, Will Packer said **Belief + Access equals success**. Although he stated this in the context of overall success, my mind immediately started thinking about what ACCESS can do for you. Sometimes you just need to digest information in a way that resonates with you. I love to read and engage with experts. However, when our daughter's caregiver shared the Autism Channel, I remember just how much SEEING neurodiverse people and their stories mattered.



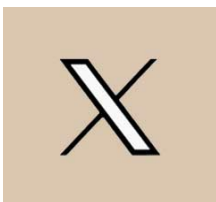
When you are struggling to understand your child on the spectrum and the new world surrounding you - You just want information. Well, it is certainly out there. As we approach Autism Awareness Month, parents know there are

resources out there for you. Take a deep breath, Believe in the purpose of your journey and EDUCATE yourself!



The Autism Channel is a **membership streaming television service** providing information and resources to families and professionals supporting people with autism spectrum disorders, available on **Roku, Amazon Fire TV, and Panasonic Viera TVs**. They also have a **YouTube channel**.

[YouTube Channel](#)



[Autism Channel's X](#)



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There are SO Many MORE Options



When our daughter was initially diagnosed there were just not enough options. We struggled to find appropriate schools, community resources, respite and appropriate social spaces. THANKFULLY that is simply not the case anymore. I am often asked to lend advice to parents and families who need guidance on NEXT STEPS - so I am always on the hunt for innovative solutions. After updating my research, I was pleasantly surprised to learn just how many new programs exist in the Tampa Bay area! Whether you need support for education, therapy, after care experience or socialization - the area is finally getting the message that we need more places for our kiddos to thrive.

Whether you are a parent of a person who is neurotypical or neurodiverse there is always a challenge finding the "right" place for your child. Our circumstances are all so incredibly unique. But knowing there are OPTIONS, and you are not alone-makes all the difference.



Autism Acceptance Center – Tampa, Florida
Autism Acceptance Center(s) will also



Autism Therapy in Pinellas Park, FL |
InBloom Autism Services
Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy is an effective approach to helping children with autism prepare for a

serve to increase awareness and acceptance of those on the autism spectrum through community inclusion and demonstrating how every member of our community has something to contribute.

[Schedule a Tour](#)



"Educational Philosophy
At Autism Inspired Academy, we aim to address the individual needs of each child socially, behaviorally, and academically. AIA strives to cultivate students' confidence and knowledge, empowering them to authentically carry out lives of meaning, purpose, and joy."

[Get More Info](#)

successful future. ABA therapy is available for children 18 months to 5 years old at our Pinellas Park Learning Center. Our exceptional staff, led by board-certified behavior analysts (BCBAs), creates and implements a personalized treatment plan for each child.

[Learn More](#)



"As a recognized leader in the landscape of inclusive and special education, LiFT is committed to providing exceptional and equal opportunities in school, employment and life experiences for ALL!"

[Visit Site](#)

Is your Head Spinning Yet?

What is INCLUSION? ACCOMMODATIONS- Really? WHY should we CARE?

Sometimes you cannot say what you REALLY WANT to say! This video says it best!



[Watch The Video](#)

Spotlight on Michael Ballard

I rarely meet people that I am impressed with beyond measure, but Michael is one of those persons. He is keenly aware of who he is and one of the kindest and most generous spirits I have met. Michael has Autism and I asked him if he would allow me to place a spotlight on him because he embodies SUCCESS! Michael manages to keep up a rigorous schedule, volunteers with Keep Pinellas Beautiful, is a leader at St. Petersburg College, lends his talent to advocacy and manages to give back to the community in so many ways. He is an example of BELIEF + ACCESS.

Here he is in his own words

Greetings, My name is Michael Ballard, I am a 24-year-old Public Policy and Government Administration student at St. Petersburg College. Living on the Autism Spectrum has come with many difficulties for people on the spectrum, from struggling with routine changes, sensory issues to facing social difficulties and a late diagnosis at age eleven. Growing up in San Jose, California, I lacked access to vital resources, had many family issues with some even denying that Autism was a real disorder, and many legal battles to finally receive the support I needed. Moving to Florida in 2015 brought new obstacles with public schooling, gaps in public services, and no idea of where to go next in life. I Found strength in volunteer work and community engagement, which helped me build connections and grow both academically and personally. Now, as I work toward my Bachelor of Science degree, I'm passionate about advocating for inclusive policies and creating opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds.



Thank you Michael for Simply BEING you!

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