



Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter | August 2022



The LAST IEP EVER!



So, I think we just had our **LAST INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN EVER!** Here's the run-down!

- 14 years of meetings age 2 to 16
- Evaluations with a battery of specialists in almost ALL areas
- Determination of eligible services and services that our child needed but did not qualify for
- Delivery of services: In the hospital, in the classroom, in our home, in the community at large, with after-school specialists

- Deep analysis and sometimes no analysis from various educators
- Incredible education from stellar providers who cared to educate our family on options to help our daughter succeed
- Knowledge about next steps- EVERY SINGLE YEAR with MORE MEETINGS!

So, that was obviously the short version of our life from 2008 to the present. You learn your temperament for patience, humility, vulnerability, and how strong you really are. I have not been able to share every part of our story -although I have certainly shared an awful lot! But I think this video- encompasses what many parents wish they could share with others about Asperger's Syndrome.



"Copy & Paste' - Hidden Asperger's--
Girls with Aspergers | Niamh McCann |
TEDxDunLaoghaire

[Watch Video](#)

To the many, many, MANY educators, therapists, and providers who have helped and continue to give their time and talent- DAILY- You have my eternal gratitude!

Get a Life Mom



Well, I had a conversation with my older child/now young adult who told me to get a life. Ironically, I recently reconnected with a friend who also has a special child/now adult who is trying to "get a life" again. After speaking with her I realized it is not so easy. You must let go to get a life and after spending most of your time daily for over a decade you are KIND OF attached to the hip to your someone you love

and have advocated for. But, in fairness, my daughter is RIGHT!

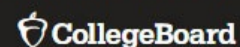
The reality is we are raising our special children to LIVE in the WORLD and importantly to navigate that world. There are so many constant questions that arise as parents of ASD teens, (and other exceptionalities) transitioning to adulthood have.

- Does our teen/now young adult want to live with me or alone?
- Will our teen/now young adult allow us to serve as guardians?
- Will our teen/now young adult going to college and if so, will there be helpful accommodations? There are by the way!

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- Will our teen/now young adult drive? If not what about public transportation?
- What about jobs? Are there transition programs that provide training for my teen/now young adult
- Ok- and financial literacy? Are there financial institutions that have evaluated accessibility?
- Overall place manual?



Just posing these questions raises my anxiety. I know it does for other families like ours. I know it is time for me to "get a life" as my daughter says, but in fairness this is a new place for our family. Let's just say I am trying and OPEN for suggestions

Here's to the next part of the journey!

Thank You Watson



Every community has an icon, a transformational leader, a person who makes you feel special just because. One who BELIEVES in your excellence. For me, and so many Watson Haynes is that MAN! Watson, who many know I affectionally called uncle, was kind just because, supported me just because, listened just because, provided positive feedback and/or critical analysis just because and was always there - JUST BECAUSE.

As a young African American female and now a much older one, I cannot tell you how much his PRESENCE meant to me. **Imagine** walking into a room where you may not know if you have it all together and seeing someone with a simple nod- assure you that ALL IS WELL. **Imagine** sharing your deepest concerns and feeling overwhelmed by how you will manage responsibilities and a simple hand on your shoulder assures you that you are COVERED. It is hard to explain how he was able to make EVERYONE he knew feel-the EXACT- same way! But somehow- he did.

I am eternally grateful to Watson's family for sharing him with our community. My husband and I are WHOLE because he poured into us whenever we needed him.

May the Angels know they have an exceptional soul

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