



Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter | January 2021

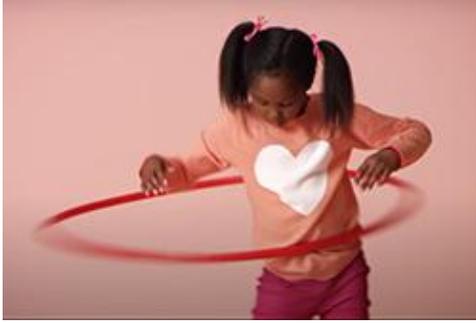
Fearless



If you did not see [Amanda Gorman](#), Youth Poet laureate you missed pure grace in motion. This young, dynamic, poised poet placed her spirit into the message she gave the nation. She was simply mesmerizing. Watching her give such a flawless speech you would not know she had a childhood diagnosis of Audio Processing Disorder, which in essence inhibits typically developmental communication. It impacts

individuals differently. My daughter's issues, although we didn't know it at the time, were compounded by Autism Spectrum Disorder.

My daughter's initial diagnosis at All Children's Hospital now Johns Hopkins was exactly the same. Listening to Amanda Gorman and learning about her story gave me an entirely



different level of respect for her journey. She is fearless! Listening to her speech also brought forth significant memories of my daughter's therapy.

[Auditory Processing Disorder](#)



At age 3 she spent no less than 4 to 5 days a week looking at pictures, determining facial expressions, practicing conversations, reading cue cards, playing intellectual games, writing and responding appropriately with loving speech therapists. Wow! I cannot believe the level of commitment on everyone's part.



So seeing Amanda Gorman was a blessing and a privilege. She gave me hope- something that is immeasurable.

If you missed her - [Catch Up!](#)

As I noted seeing Amanda Gorman achieve her dreams was a window of hope for me. But I am also extremely grateful for the many people who are trying to open the door and have meaningful discussions on what cognitive disabilities are and how they impact your level of communication. It's important because it's not just that people believe some with autism spectrum disorder are inept often people put them in the same category including my daughter. Recently we were scrolling through the many television Disney programs she loves and came across the Disney short, "Loop."

My daughter immediately protested and said, "I don't wanna watch that, she's not autistic like me I can talk." My husband and I looked at each other with dismay realizing that as much as we do to advocate for those with ASD we failed somehow to explain to her what being on the spectrum means. Disney did outstanding job of capturing the impact of communication skills and how it disrupts lives. And as they always do they capture the beauty of differences.





It's important for us to understand who we are, we all communicate differently and everyone has individual goals. As I was writing this article, I reviewed some old research I had done about how individuals with Asperger syndrome feel about integrating into the educational space - what their desires are and how they navigate them. I was reminded of how vocal the community is. We all have dreams and aspirations for our children and our children may not have those same dreams and aspirations. That is no different for someone with ASD. So now my new job is to continue to listen to the needs of my daughter and expand her world so that she can achieve them.

For more in the college experience please click the links below:



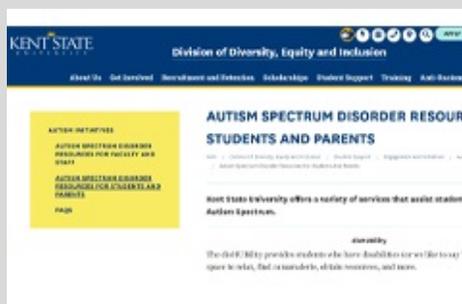
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