



**Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter**  
**June 2024**

## Knowledge Is Power



## Own It and Say My Name!

The more we listen to our daughter the more we are privileged to HEAR her voice. It is quite interesting to see someone blossom. With every child we talk about their potential to thrive but when you see them thriving it is well breathtaking. Our daughter would like to become a voiceover actress. Admittedly I did not understand exactly what that was. I NOW KNOW!



- **It means movies**
- **It means anime**
- **It means commercials**
- **It means cartoons**
- **It means books**
- **The list goes on and on!**

At her last Jack and Jill Teen Conference our daughter took ownership of who she was and in essence asked everyone to HEAR her! She spoke in front of a crowded room of peers and adults and shared her spirit. It was well as I said

breathtaking.

For the many- many children on the spectrum both verbal and non-verbal we see you. You may not communicate in a manner where you feel heard but know someone is listening. Seek out the arts. It is a perfect space for you to Own It and Say Your Name!



### "New Non-Profit Autistic Theatremakers Alliance Announces 3 Education Grants"

[Read Article](#)

## She's A BiG GIRL - So what NOW?

I have addressed the question - So what NOW???? .....Soooooo many times! You would think by now we have a seamless plan moving forward. But we do not because life is an individual experience and our daughter has the right to make decisions that best suit her and explore her endless potential with family and community support.

It has been my experience and I am sure many of yours that plans often fail or evolve despite our good intentions. I am grateful we have taught our daughter to advocate for herself.



There are so many resources out there, but the reality is it does not matter if you do not understand them. If you do not know how to navigate resources and use support there is no significance to having these tools that your disposal.

- My best advice is to teach your child to embrace their intellectual curiosity.
- To encourage them to ask questions.
- Let them know that it is OK not to accept the first answer and to verify what they have been told.

The reality is all our children on the spectrum become adults. And it is our obligation to let them go where it takes them. The resources below are a good start to arming your child with information they need to know as they grow!

### Guide to Disability Rights Laws



**ADA.gov**  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division

A brief overview for students of ten Federal laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities and the Federal agencies to contact for more information.

[Find More Information](#)

## Speaking of Resources

Speaking of resources, I came across this video that has an overview for student rights for persons with disabilities. Like any resource some of it is applicable to your personal situation and others you can just chalk up to additional information that may help someone else, but I thought it was important to share because often we speak without knowing what we are entitled to.

Many people who are familiar with my advocacy, understand that I believe knowledge is power. There is simply no greater asset than understanding the rules that enhance, change, support, or impact your life! It is my hope that as we grow this village of allies, we all continue to understand how to support their inclusivity into our communities.



**EducationUSA | Supporting Students With Disabilities**

[Watch Video](#)

## More Love Taps

To the magnificent teens of the Suncoast chapter of Jack and Jill, Inc. and my exceptional sister moms-THANK YOU for being a significant part of our daughter's village.

Over the past 23 years our family has been a member of this family organization. We strive to give our children the best. I cannot thank you enough for the refuge you provided our daughters over the years.

I want to extend my extreme gratitude to Moms Lori Harris, Brooke Taylor, her god-mother Monica Campbell and my extended Atlanta Jack and Jill Moms who made my daughter's last experience at teen conference one for the ages. You all changed our lives!



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