

## Gaston's Intensive Connection Therapy

We heard about Dr. Serrano from one Professor at the University where she obtained her Ph.D. He knew her well both as a student and as colleague. So it happened that she visited Tucson in the Summer and we were able to have an appointment with her so she could evaluate our son Gastón, a 9 year old child with autism. At that time we agreed that she would return for an intensive connection program specially designed for him.

Dr. Serrano became involved in every aspect of my son's life working approximately 9-12 hours a day. At the end of the intervention, not only we had a house designed to help Gastón and support staff who would continue the work with him, but our whole family took a 180 degree turn for the better. Today Gaston's conditions have changed. He goes to another school and we have learned how to empower and help him.

It would be impossible for me to summarize all her work, but these are the most evident changes during and after Dr Serrano's intensive intervention

- 1- He started to look straight in the eyes, not only at me but other people as well
- 2- He is potty trained. He is 9 and he was wearing pull ups. We had no hope to getting Gastón off diapers when she arrived. Now he goes around with regular cloths and underwear. Some accidents occurred in the new school but he is being trained as a neurotypical child.
- 3- Language-wise, he started to incorporate new grammatical structures that he had not noticed before despite many attempts by the Speech Therapist. The Speech Therapist herself was very impressed.
- 4- Gastón abandoned, almost completely, obsessive behaviors such as turning the light switches on and off, manipulating digital microwave clocks and the obsessive need to flush the toilet all the time. As a matter of fact he started to play with these things when we were near to get our attention with a very mischievous attitude.
- 5- Humor was a new change in Gastón's life.
- 6- Instead of running to things to get them, or pointing at things when he wanted them, Gastón started to request things on his own with much less prompting.
- 7- Now Gastón wants to be hugged, welcomes tender embraces and wants to be near people.
- 8- He socializes and plays with his family members and with his brother at home.
- 9- Dr Serrano designed a table device to correct eye perception and under the direction of "more space" he writes his name with more space between the letters. Before, he would write every letter in the same space, almost one on top of the other.
- 10- He wrote his full name without prompting.
- 11- He now sits properly and holds attention span for a much longer time.
- 12- He began to manipulate and play with objects.
- 13- He stopped compulsive repetition of numbers and additions and can be quiet listening.
- 14- He is more focused and self regulated.
- 15- We know now how to understand his body language and important communication signs he gives us that we would not pay attention to before.
- 16- We understand his way of learning, looking at things and focusing on people and his surroundings, when before we considered his behavior just odd. We now take advantage of his behaviors.
- 17- He rarely calls people by their name but he started spontaneously calling people by their name on occasions.