

An Autistic Sibling

Did you know that many well known people have shown signs of autism? Among them include Leonardo da Vinci, three U.S Presidents, and many other artists and writers have shown small signs of autism. There are several forms of autism, including Aspergers. My brother, Tyson, has classic autism. Tyson was born with autism and since then, he has been a major challenge. He has mood swings every day, has trouble speaking, and has sensory issues. However, through him, I have learned patience, second chances, and love. Personally, I think he's a treasure because of the lessons he has taught me.

One thing I have learned from Tyson is patience. With autism, Tyson is prone to mood swings, one minute he is screaming, the next he is laughing. Because of this, I have learned to be patient with all people, no matter what their attitude is. Also, because of Tyson's speech issues, he doesn't have a big vocabulary. He will come up to my family and show us a picture of something, saying a basic identification of what it is, like "Jungle, tigers," and that's all he'll say. Patience is important because he then comes up to us nearly ten times per hour repeating it. Staying calm doing this is very hard he's like a broken record, but because of him, I've learned to listen to what people have to say, wait to speak, and speak calmly to them. With some of Tyson's disabilities, I have learned to be patient with people.

Other than patience, I have learned to give second chances to people through Tyson. Often, when my family goes to town for shopping, he has a bad day, often breaking down and screaming. When he does this, I have to resist the urge to slap him. I think to myself that I can never forgive him. However, this is impossible, because every day I look back on a bad day and think about all the fun times we had together, and think, "I can't stay mad at him." So, I give him second chances, and I have learned to give second chances to other people who have made me angry. This quality was made famous in the Bible story of Jonah, and I treasure it.

Finally, because of my brother, I have learned how to love in ways I never thought possible. Through every bad moment I have with Tyson, I remember all the fun times we had together, from our family vacation to Florida, and trips to Hayward. During these fun times, I have learned to love my brother like a mother loves her child. Even though I may not show it, I love him with all my heart. Love to me is also one of the greatest treasures of this world.

Tyson has proven to be a great treasure through his autism. I have learned invaluable traits, patience, second chances, and love from him. He is a treasure that only those with an autistic sibling can understand.