

Living With Autistic Twins

Curt & Ana Warner

- Diagnosis
 - Very late, right before 5 years old
 - Late diagnosis of twins
 - Doctor's lack of knowledge (1999)
 - My mission

- Education

- Learned about ABA
 - 40 hours for each boy a week
 - Weekly improvement
 - Stress on the family
 - Private school (teaching acceptance)
 - Public school
 - Self teaching: Computer skills
- Different languages

- Behavior

- Wandering
- Climbing
- Puberty: aggression, destruction
- Can't separate fiction (or make believe)
from reality: Fire
- PTSD
- Now: Consequence for behaviors: privileges
are removed (computer, iPad, printing, movies)

- **Social Issues**

- Don' t understand personal space
- Disney is the only subject of interest

- **Sibling**

- Growing up with autistic brothers
- Facing social problems
- Understanding & maturing
- Future

- **Living Condition**

- Since fire, had house rebuilt with extra thick walls
- Alarm sensors every window and door
- All doors are key locked all adults carry a key

- **Adulthood**

- Scary
- Guardianship
- Our own mortality
- Protect them financially
- Protect our other kids from financial burden
- Our goal: Boys will be safe and happy

- Marriage

- Sad statistics
- Make time for each other
- Stronger together
- Your kids need you

- Travel

- Since diagnosis, as parents we don't travel together in case of accident, so that they have at least one parent.
- Travel takes a lot of preparation
- No problems to Disney because they are so obsessed. Disney caters to any diet.
- We travel with food
- One of us sleeps by the door in case they wander

- Normal Lives?

- Sometimes we wish it were different
- Learning to be thankful (in every circumstance)
- Bringing us closer to God
- Our Neuro-typical children are stronger, more patient, and caring

- Conclusion

- Life with autism is a daily struggle, but this is our life!
- We choose to grow stronger as a family

Thank you!
Curt & Ana Warner