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Helping Others By Helping Ryan

Reported By: Ted Hall

Web Editor: Michael King



Susan Ellis' son Ryan needed help. She came up with an innovation she says is so good, it could help other kids dramatically.

Ryan is the 5-year-old his parents always dreamed of.

"He's a little love. Dancing, singing, jumping around. He's a happy kid. Very smart," said Susan.

Not long ago, his mom was saying something else. It was enough to bring her to tears.

"Three years ago, he was a nightmare. He couldn't talk," Susan said.

Autism affects the development of Ryan's brain -- especially in social interaction, communication and attention. His family has done everything they could think of to help. They totally changed his diet -- no more dairy and grains.

"Speech therapy, occupational therapy, music and hypno-therapy -- we've done a lot of work with him," said Susan.

Even when all those things started to work, Ryan, like many other autistic children, couldn't write.

Ryan's therapist Marnie Danielson tried techniques -- rhythms, chants, repeat. His mother noticed everything he saw on TV he picked up, so she combined them. She taped Marnie and showed Ryan.

The home video worked. So the last year has been totally dedicated to making a professional video.

"It's been her life for a year now. It's the love of her son and what's it's done for him," said Danielson.

Susan thinks it can help other kids, special needs or not, just like it helped Ryan.

"He's starting to become himself. He's become this boy who's wonderful," Susan said.

The DVD is called the TV Teacher - Alphabet Beats.

More information can be found at www.tvteachervideos.com.