

THE CENTER FOR AUTISM & NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

Patient Testimonial, June 2017

Claudia didn't think twice about it when her two-year-old daughter, Melody, was not speaking. After all, she didn't learn to walk until she was 16 months.

"I noticed that she wasn't hitting the milestones for her age group and thought it was a little abnormal but not alarming. I worked in the medical field for several years and it wasn't until some of the nurses I was surrounded by encouraged me to seek further help," said Claudia.

Melody was initially referred to a regional center for speech therapy services but it was ultimately recommended she participate in a more comprehensive program consisting of speech, occupational and physical therapy.

At the age of three, Melody was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

"I didn't know much about autism so I wanted to educate myself. I started signing up for emails and newsletters from various resources and organizations. That's when I got a notification from The Center for their Pacific Symphony event and that began our relationship with them," Claudia said.

In December 2016, Melody started receiving speech therapy services at The Center.

"Melody loves the Pacific Symphony event. She has such a great time with the music, especially when they let her touch and play with the instruments," Claudia added.

Now four years old and in preschool, Melody has made noticeable progress and improvement.

"She is making more eye contact with me and now points to an item when she wants it instead of putting my hand directly on the things she wants. We're also starting to put two words together," said Claudia.

Also this month, Melody started receiving behavioral therapy (ABA) at The Center.

Claudia describes Melody as a happy-go-lucky child, who loves to play with puzzles, listen to music, horseback ride and swim. She can't wait to see what additional progress she makes in the next six months.

"The Center has been so helpful in relaying information and confirming things for me. Melody receives a

different level of individualized attention at The Center than in her school. We truly appreciate the staff at The Center, they are always so attentive and caring," Claudia adds.

She hopes (and knows) that with continued support and services from The Center, Melody will be able to attend school where she will excel and socially interact with her peers and classmates.

"What I really want is to be able to communicate with my daughter," concluded Claudia.



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