

WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE RECEIVING A DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER?

Grace was diagnosed when she was three and a half. But before she was diagnosed, we went to primary care center a couple times. I hear like other doctors tell me she was not autistic, you know, but I knew something was going on, you know, because she was not talking. You know, I had a doctor told me that she just needed speech, and daycare.

I had a doctor told me she just had older siblings that was talking. What actually got me on the road to getting her diagnosis is, I had a nurse practitioner and PPC. She came in the room she seen Grace babbling and she was like, "This is not normal." And she was the only one that did that she said, "we need to get you over to DDBP she should not be doing that," you know, so that's when our journey started.

Well, When you have a black child. Usually they do get diagnosed later because they don't look for autism. Autism is usually considered a little white boy disease. You know, and I have a girl. And I have a black girl. So, and part of me you know you don't want to hear your child has Autism. So I think that was a big part of it.

I did not like the evaluation. Actually, and I usually love everybody at DDBP, but my first. My first experience with them I did not like the evaluation. I love the psychologist there, she was awesome. And she was the only one that said, "She is young, a lot of things happen in a couple years, you know, we can redo this in a couple years and see where she's going or we can do therapy," but she is she, you know she gave you that hope the speech lady was not like that, you know, she did not

I think what practitioners don't get is this is stressful for a parent, you're going to see what a person think of your child are they gonna label your child was so I can't even blame it all on 10:41:59 them, it could have been me, partially being on a, you know, because you don't want to get that diagnosis you know something is there but you don't want to get that, you know, so you know I can't even really say it was all the speech lady, it was just that's just a hard time for a parent. It was really stressful.

I think they didn't have family advocates or whatever. So, I just get a big packet, what to do after the diagnosis. So, I think a lot of stuff was missing. I don't think they do that now. But he gave me the sense that I had to go online and see what works and what I had no direction, no. So, you know, I'm online like okay, they say this word, this supplement this that and other you know, so I immediately wanted to fix grace and grace is not someone I can fix. Grace is Grace.

And I think had I am more structure or, you know, someone telling me like okay let's do these schools or look at these still, I had no type of structure at all. And I think that was a big part of my anxiety and my necessity of trying to fix her and you know, looking this up on the internet looking this up seeing what's best. That was it. It was my urgency, that was my sense of urgency. Yeah you felt like you had to do something immediately but you didn't know what to do because you didn't have the structure and the guidance.