

Capital speaking

This is my son Owen and why I am here speaking to you today...

A year ago our family began working with Early Access for Owen. Owen was 2 with many developmental delays. Owen a year ago couldn't self regulate his emotions, played by himself, no imaginary play, meltdown for long periods of time, very structured routine, picky eater, attention span small, spinning in constant circles, fixation on one specific item, no communication, wasn't responding to commands or questions, even his name was gone..within one year Owen is a completely different child. He can do all of those things now and more, his speech is slowly progressing, we have over 50 words! He interacts with everyone, plays beside peers, imaginary play is out of this world, understands his emotions, using words or forms of communication for his needs/wants, animal sounds and names are down pat, attempts to say all words even if unclear to other, follows directions and commands at school, asks for help, and follows job duties at school. He is such a different little boy because of Early Access, early intervention is key in children who have delays. I am sharing my story because the AEA changed my son from a little 2 year old boy who didn't know his name to a confident independent 3 year old boy named Owen.

After EA we had an amazing special Ed rep within our AEA transition Owen to 3 year old preschool where he now receives unmatched support from his peers and speech therapy. Without all of the AEA employees knowledge and guidance Owen would not be where he is today. I want to see the AEA grow and provide and not have to be limited to our children, parents, schools, and their families..the AEAS doing many amazing things for our children in this state.

KILL THE BILL AND SAVE THE AEAS.