This Keynote is Available at www.mrboll.com
Father to a Boy with Autism

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House Rules: “That’s what autism is, a slippery slope. One minute you convince yourself that you are so far up that hill that you cannot see the bottom anymore. The next day, it is covered with black ice, and you are falling fast.”

--Author Jodi Picoult
Stages of Grief
Stages of Grief
Stages of Grief

Five Stages of Grief

• Denial
• Anger
• Bargaining
• Depression
• Acceptance
Stages of Autism
Stages of Autism

Five Stages of Autism

• Denial
• Diagnosis
• Understanding
• Adjustment
• Acceptance
Denial

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Grandparents Often Know

Should I listen to my mother for once?
Hello,
something is weird with our kid!

Parents May Disagree

Denial

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Becomes Too Obvious

Denial

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Diagnosis
Diagnosis

Time to See an Expert
Diagnosis

Time to See an Expert

Teachers, friends, relatives, neighbors are not experts

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Diagnosis

Oh crap!

Your child appears to have autism

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Understanding

Oh Crap!

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Will he grow out of it?

Um, no...
Off to the Internet!
So Many Therapies!
So Many Therapies!

- Pandas
- Autism Clay
- RDI
- Diet
- Gluten
- ABA
- Floortime
- Oxygen Tank
- RPM
- Supplements
- Pivotal Response
- Scerts
- Verbal behavior

Understanding

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Oh by the way, you have just a couple or years to make a difference
I don’t think I like you anymore.
Different Camps

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Different Camps
Different Camps

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Adjustment
Somebody needs a lot attention

Adjustment

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Strains on Relationships

I have to work

Why are you not helping

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Sleep May Suffer Adjustment
Impact on Relationships

Adjustment

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What Fathers Stress About Adjustment

IAN Project: Father Stress
Percentage Reporting Moderate or Great Negative Impact
IAN data updated Jul 1 2009 N=390

- Treatment Disappointment: 47
- Exhaustion: 39
- Getting Treatments: 61
- Setbacks: 61
- Child Behavior: 65
- Worry for Future: 87

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“Advice” From Strangers

Adjustment

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“Advice” From Strangers

Adjustment

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Acceptance

Your child may need a lifetime of support

Oh crap!

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His Parents Are Working On It
His Sister Is Already There

Acceptance

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His Sister Is Already There

Acceptance

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Thanks ;-)

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