

Centering Client Perspectives: Making Scenes that Matter

MOTHER

1 I think Dylan and I are very similar. We're very social. We ask lots of questions. Were very friendly.
2 We're not intimidated by people. We like to just be with other people. And, were very happy and easy
3 going. Like, for Dylan, what makes him happy is a dinosaur and French fries at burger king. If you give
4 him that? He's fine. You know. He's pretty easy going. You take him to the park, or we do things. So I
5 see him-, I look at Dylan and I see a lot of me. This happy, friendly kid. Every month there is a free day
6 at the museum so we go. Dylan knows every dinosaur. He's made friends with the curator and they
7 talk about dinosaurs when we go.

CLINIC-BASED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

8 Because-, I don't know if its cause he's exci-, like when he gets excited about things? He's like-, you
9 know, he's a modulation kid. He can't-, it's just like-, one extra detail that, like, sends him over the
10 edge and I don't know if that would-, tied into it, so I was going to wait and see, like over the weeks,
11 'cause he was like flying around that day. He has such low frustration tolerance as it is? That he's
12 going to hit this wall, that he's not going-, he's going to be like-, you know, they're trying to push
13 writing right now. He's not ready for writing. He can't draw diagonals. He can't-, you know, he uses a
14 palmar grasp on a pencil and he really doesn't have-, he has poor bilateral coordination, poor
15 proximal stability-, he has everything going against him? He's a kid that used to-, if you brought out
16 anything fine motor, he'd run screaming from the room." I mean, so that's how severe he's been
17 frustration-, like how low his frustration tolerance has been in the past. And so now, it's so much
18 better, cause, you know, he'll do this and that. He does so many things now? Uhm, but I still know
19 that's where he's coming from frustration-wise. I don't think it's fantastic. I don't think it's...superb. I
20 mean, I think a lot of why he doesn't take-, tolerate variety and changes is because things are so hard
21 for him, he likes to control. He likes to control a situation, because he's like "I've done this before. Its
22 accessible. I know how to do it." And uhm, I just-, he's just a kid that I can see-, he's not going to be
23 able to play with other kids because he's going to be stuck in these very simple play themes. He
24 definitely doesn't have the motor coordination to do any kind of a ball game or sport or the
25 endurance to do even a sport that doesn't take coop-, you know, interactive play with another kid.
26 Like he-, running, he's not going to be a runner. Rock climbing? He can't rock climb. I just-, future-
27 wise, he's not-, were not setting him up to be very successful, I think.

28 I talked to his school O.T. And so-, and its fine if its, you know, if is something structured ? that he-,
29 that he knows If its totally structured? Like he knows he has to do that activity? But, when its play
30 (laughs) and-, free play, it's his way or "no." But, unfortunately, from the school perspective, "He's
31 okay in his school," which is three hours a day, special day class, kindergarten. That doesn't-, it's not a
32 strong academic push right now, so yeah. Right now, he's okay. But my problem is-, I-, I think just
33 from experience? I see where's he's going to be. And I see the challenges he will have and I'm like
34 "Aighh," you know, I don't-, that-, and I-, I just-, I don't feel right not helping prepare him more.

35 So, I think, you know, I think-, I think there's something definitely social there. And, with all my kids
36 with autism, there's a social connection. I don't think it's a...skill that needs to be taught-, I don't know.
37 I go back and forth. I have this, like, the war of me in relation to social skills. Because I think there are
38 some things that need to be taught. Like you can't just slam a door in someone's face, you can't-, you
39 know, you can't-, you won't be able to get along in society. Look at it from-, you can't get along and
40 you won't be able to participate in society very well.

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