

Advice from Davis' Mom

I hope this helps you to understand Davis. Davis does not know how to communicate when he is upset. His brain functions differently than the rest of ours. When he is upset the communication and reasoning side of his brain shuts down and all he can do is cry.

The thing that mainly upsets him is when things don't happen the way he has anticipated them. For example, if a schedule is changed without telling him or if someone sits in his chair. That sort of thing. He will need to be told ahead of time any changes that will occur.

I suspect that Davis might have a photographic memory. He can still remember things he did when he was 2 years old. He thrives on consistency and routine.

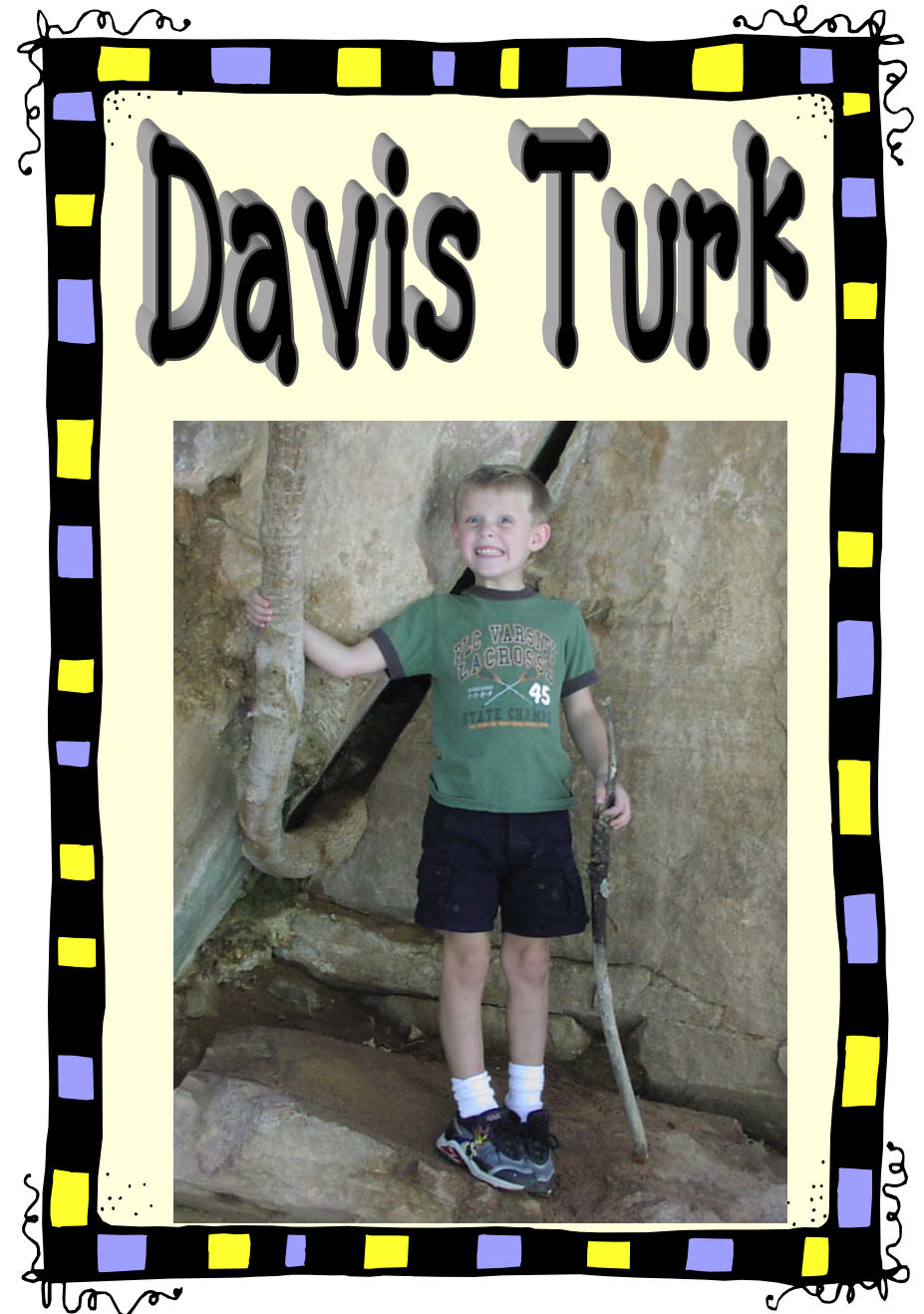
It is better that problems are anticipated and avoided than letting him embarrass himself by throwing a fit during class. He is incapable of learning anything during a tantrum. It would be better if he was removed to a "time-out" spot. Time-out has/does work really well for him. However, it needs to be a secluded space that doesn't have anything fun in it. Our time-out spot is in the laundry room. Mrs. Draggo can give you suggestions on how to handle his tantrums. She did a remarkable job the past year and a half with Davis. We feel extremely blessed she was his teacher.

Please keep me up to date on Davis' progress.

I am available to come and help in the classroom at anytime!

Thank you for being his teacher and caring about him.

Laurie Turk (281) 579-0321



All About Me!

My name is Davis Turk. I love space shuttles, rockets, NASCAR's, airplanes, and Justice League, and Power Rangers. This summer I started pretending using toys with my little brother Dylan (3). I can pretend anything is an airplane or pod racer.

I love to play midtown madness 3 and star wars on my X-box. I love the computer! I like to play Freddie the fish and Nick Jr. on the computer. Computer time would be a good reward for me.

My favorite movie right now is Treasure Planet. My favorite TV shows are 'The magic school bus' and 'power rangers'.

I love to play with legos, blocks, and board games. I can ride my bike with out training wheels! I can also do flips on my grandma's trampoline. I also like to ride my 4-wheeler, Jeep, and scooter. I enjoy finding bugs! Especially rollie pollies, frogs, worms, and love-bugs. I also love to play with my dog Toby.

I love to sing. Sometimes it's hard for me to sing in a group. But I am listening and memorizing the words.

Unlike most autistic kids, I want to be accepted and to have friends. I know when people are making fun of me. I also model other kids behavior. So if I see a kid being funny I will probably do it too.

Some words sound really funny to me. I like laughing at funny sounding words. Please anticipate my behavior.

I also like to make people laugh. Sometimes I don't know the appropriate way to do that. So I'll make silly faces. Encourage me to participate in a positive way.

Like most autistic children, I do not know how to keep myself safe. I will talk to anyone and do what anyone tells me to do. My mom is really concerned about kids telling me to do mean things. Because I want feel accepted, I will do anything another kids ask me to.

I do not know instinctively know what "good decisions" are. I have to be trained. I do not have the common sense that most of the kids in my class will have. Behaviors will have to be explained and reinforced by praise or other forms of rewards.

Love me and I will learn

Positive reinforcement and incentives will help me cooperate. I love to be told, "You are trying hard to sit still. Great job!" Be short and specific in your praise—that's how I learn.

I love stickers! Immediate rewards (such as praise, sticker, etc) will let me know exactly what I'm doing right. Focus only on the Positive!

I have sensory problems and so I have a hard time sitting still. I can be distracted by noise most people block out such as buzzing of lights, a children walking in the hall, etc.

I feel like I'm floating in space, so when I bump up against someone I know to stop. That's why I have a hard time standing in line with a little space in front of me. Also, I might bump into someone on accident. My brain tells me to go from point A to point B and I will go straight there and it sometimes it won't matter what or who is in the way. I am not trying to be mean.

It is very important that I know what the rules are in class. I have a hard time generalizing. So I will need to be taught the rules for every room I go in. I am also a visual learner, can you write them down for me and remind me when I need it?

Sometimes I have a hard time transitioning to another activity. Showing me pictures of my daily schedule and what is coming up next will help me understand what is expected of me.

Showing me examples of good Behavior will help me. Say things like, "Davis. Look how Brooklyn is writing her letters. Great job Brooklyn!"

I have a hard time looking and hearing at the same time. It hurts me to make eye contact. Please encourage me to look at your eyes when you talk to me, but don't insist. I am paying attention even though I am not making eye contact or looking in your direction.

Also, unlike most Autistic children, I like to be touched, hugged, and tickled. In fact it helps me to feel accepted and liked.

If you Emphasize cooperation, not control, and are consistent, I'll know exactly what's expected of me.