



After the Diagnosis
LIFE ON AN ISLAND



HELLO,
I'm Trisha!

- YWCA Women of the Year Nominee
- GiGi's Playhouse Board Member
- BIO Girls Site Director
- Advocate
- Passionate Parent Resource

MEET SAM

- Donor twin -
- Twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome
- 28 weeker
- Hydrocephalus
- Late-onset GBS
- Sepsis
- Meningitis



THE *Diagnosis*

- Early Intervention supported our concerns
- Pediatrician wanted us to wait it out as it could be "he's just a preemie"
- Once we had diagnosis, we were able to get resources we needed.



THE *Next Steps*

SERVICES

- Respite
- ABA Therapy
- Waitlists...

SUPPORT GROUPS

- Difficult to connect
- Autism is such a spectrum, we don't just "get each other"



OUR DREAM

- Establish a "Care Team" for every family.
- Recommend therapists for caregivers.
- Be knowledgeable about siblings and how they will navigate life.



OUR DREAM

- Do not be dismissive – parents are terrified they did something wrong. Allow them to have questions.
- Designated nurses to do all ASD care.
- A life long diagnosis should have life long support from the medical community.



Thank You!

