

# April Waiting List Story- Meet JOSH!

My name is Josh and I am nine years old. I've lived in Vienna my whole life! I live with my mom, dad, my younger brother, and my older sister. They all love me very much. Sometimes, though, I complicate our lives. I have autism and it can take a lot of energy to help me.



I can talk, but I don't use a lot of words. I'm usually a happy guy, but I prefer to be by myself most of the time, unless we're going to play outside. I love to play outside! I'm happy to do that with other people. I can swing, run with my brother and sister, and go to outdoor events all day long. I even like roller coasters!

Not all days are as fun my days at the amusement park. Sometimes I can be a bit aggressive. I don't sleep well and I often get up in the middle of the night and don't go back to sleep. That makes it pretty hard for everyone else to

sleep, too.

My mom got me on the waiting list for a DD Waiver as soon as I was eligible (age 5 years, 9 months), but we're still waiting. It would be nice to have help. A case manager to help us find supports and a break for my mom and dad would go a long way for now.

Instead, we're just doing our best to figure things out. Even simple things, like giving me medication to help with my insomnia, are hard. I am not really able to express how the medications make me feel and I don't always process things the way other people do. I have a lot of medical appointments and doctors to help ensure I'm safe and growing well.

Change is hard for me. I started a new program at school this year and there are five kids in my class. Even though it is small, it can feel overwhelming. Having a new teacher is difficult and there is so much going on.



When I was younger we had some speech therapy for me, but that is gone now. A Waiver could help me get some therapeutic consultations to help me manage my behaviors and learn to communicate better.

I hope we get my DD Waiver soon. It would really help me and my whole family to get some supports.

I would like you to remember that each of the more than 10,000 people on the Waiting List have a story and need your help, too.

You can change my future! Please fund the waiting list for ID and DD Waivers AND SUPPORT WAIVER REFORM! End the wait, start a life.