



Parent Perspective - Ryan's journey

Tracey, Mother of Ryan

Ryan didn't hit his 12 month milestones and the maternal child health nurse picked up that there were problems, she said that it could just be within the realms of normal and to wait so then we got to the 18 month check and she said, no I think that there are definitely problems.

At that stage they were running a PhD study out of LaTrobe Uni looking at how early to start early intervention and we got an appointment with them when he was about 20 months old. They basically gave us the news. It was a bit of a surprise because no one in the family is autistic; it was just very foreign so, it was – “what do we do next?” which I think a lot of families face. From there we got a paediatrician, the paediatrician recommended some speech therapists, we then started speech therapy. I tried reading a lot of things, trying to figure out what was a good fit to the family, we started early intervention, the place that we were at stopped running groups sessions so we changed providers.

We did early intervention for three years. He didn't start talking til he was six and a half. He had the typical autistic traits; he didn't point, he didn't nod, there was no gesturing of any kind, he didn't start doing any of that until he was also about six and a half. The gesturing started just before six and a half, the language started just after six and a half. Where we have come to is just amazing. From a very ridged, frustrated child to a much more engaged, happy child and a much happier family, it's been a wonderful journey.

*** This is an approximate transcription only; minor modifications have been made to assist the reader.*