

# Christine's Chronicles: What Next

Follow along with one parent on her journey to make inclusion a reality for her son.



by Christine Lindauer

I think it might be time for me to switch topics in this blog. Communication and partnership issues with Luke's teachers and therapists – SOLVED. My concerns over inclusion – SOLVED.

Yes, I'm oversimplifying. I know more ups and downs are to come. But a few clues recently presented themselves that things are in fact going very well.

I attended another team meeting with Luke's teachers and therapists to discuss the activities they were planning for the week and how to embed Luke's interventions into those activities. I did a lot of listening in that meeting. This was new for me. Not that the teachers weren't asking me questions or involving me, I just didn't have much to say. Prior meetings, I was always going on and on trying to give tips and suggestions, explaining nuances of my son's behavior and routines, etc. But this time, I just listened to the teachers, now hearing the expertise they were developing in working with my son. They were attempting new activities that I had yet to try. I offered a suggestion here and there, but they were no more valid than the teachers' suggestions.

Later at home, I found myself contemplating an issue with Luke that I've had for a while now – that he perseverates on the washing machine (on or off) and I struggle to engage him in other activities. My thought was – I should ask Luke's teachers and therapists for some help on this. This was the relationship I was striving for. Mutual respect and understanding.

Another clue came the other day at pickup. One of Luke's teachers described how Luke engaged another peer at mealtime in a conversation of sorts. With the encouragement of the teacher, Luke used his voice output device and tapped a boy on his shoulder to tell him something. A short back and forth exchange followed. Engaging with peers has been a goal now for Luke for over a year, and to be honest I thought it wouldn't happen probably for another year. But with a skilled teacher, who

understood his goals, his capabilities and the resources at hand, she helped to create that moment for my son.

So from here, I simply ask “What next?”

### **Community Question**

Are there any topics on which you'd be particularly interested in hearing a perspective from a parent like me?

#### Related content

- Christine's Chronicles: A New Partnership
- Christine's Chronicles: Parents Speak Out

Add Comment

### **thanks**

Great and amazing post on this topic

Reply