

Portrait of Mary

Mary is a 39 year old mother. She has an 8 year old son, Johnny, who was diagnosed with autism at the age of 2. Jonny understands what is being said to him, but is only able to say a few words and has trouble articulating them. When upset, he either pinches or tries to run away. Mary is a college graduate with a CPA. She spent the last six years researching treatment options and resources on the Internet related to autism and special education. She works closely with advocacy organizations and runs a support group for parents of children on the autism spectrum. She advocates for children with autism and their families.

Mary is involved in her sons' education. She is always in contact with the school principal and teachers to follow up on his progress. She thinks that her son would be better served in a self-contained classroom, with more behavioral support than he is currently receiving. She is concerned that he does not have more than a rudimentary communication system with limited picture symbols to say "yes" or "no" "hungry" and "bathroom". She tries to share strategies she has learned about in her extensive research, but doesn't think that they are listening to her. She wants to know more about the Federal and State regulations to get a better idea of what her rights are so she can be a better advocate for her child. If she continues to be unable to get results, she is considering moving to another school district.