

Navigating Neurodivergence A Parent's Perspective

Denise Graves

Cedar's Timeline



2017

- Born at 31w1d
1lb 14oz
- 9-week hospital stay
- Began services through the Early Start program



2019

- Diagnosed with Level 1 autism in Denver, CO
- Began receiving speech and physical therapy



2020

- Moved back to California and had to be re-evaluated for autism to try and continue services
- Pandemic - no services received
- Little sister was born

Cedar's Timeline Cont...



2022/2023

- Began behavioral therapy through our insurance
- Started kindergarten and got on an IEP



2024

- Diagnosed with ADHD
- Began medication



PRESENT

- Had a great triennial report in January
- Trying to get services through the regional center

Barriers We've Experienced

MULTIPLE EVALUATIONS

Lengthy Processes

GAPS IN SERVICE

Inconsistent Therapists

STIGMAS

Family and Societal Norms

MINIMAL GUIDANCE

Lack of Community

GREAT MEDICAL TEAM

Pediatrician & Psychiatrist

NURTURING SCHOOL

Teachers and IEP team rocks!

SUPPORTIVE FAMILY

Patient and willing to learn

Victories

My Role



ADVOCATE

Seeks to
Change Systems



ALLY

Provides
Support



**THANK
YOU**