

Parent Testimonial

Claudia Espinoza de Posada was worried about her two-year-old son Omar. He didn't speak much, never followed instructions, rarely made eye contact and hated to sit still. Thinking that he might have a hearing problem, she turned up the TV volume on his favorite cartoons but Omar came running -- thus eliminating the possibility of deafness. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder became her next possible explanation. Claudia made an appointment with a pediatric neurologist, who asked many questions before diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorder. The doctor said that no cure exists for autism, but that some therapies would aid Omar's development. "I was in shock," she recalled. "I didn't know what I should do."



Claudia consulted a second doctor, who concurred with the original assessment. "They said to me that maybe Omar won't be able to do many, many things," she said. "After I left their office and got into the car, I started crying. I told my husband that everybody can say what they want, but God has the last word and I will do whatever I can to help my son."

Omar now receives occupational and speech therapy at school, extra speech therapy at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, and Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy at Sensory Wonderland. "He also has a very good therapist at home, his 10-year-old sister Frida!" Claudia said. "She has been a big support to him, she is so kind and sweet to him. We have learned as a family many things, like little things are important, any kind of discrimination is not in our values, patience, empathy, teamwork, acceptance and the most important -- love him as he is. We love you, Omar!"