

HE COULD COUNT THE COINS FOR THE POSTMAN

meet

KRISTIN SELBY GONZALEZ

Kristen Selby Gonzalez is the President of Autism Hope Alliance and the mother of Jaxson, a nineteen-year-old diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

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takeaways

- Jaxson was able to connect with the robot immediately
- Jaxson was able to apply what he learned in real-life situations
- Jaxson's language ability has increased

ABOUT KRISTIN SELBY GONZALEZ

Kristin Selby Gonzalez is the President of Autism Hope Alliance, a non-profit foundation committed to helping families of children with autism through education, financial support, and volunteerism. She is also the mother of Jaxson, a nineteen-year-old diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

THE CHALLENGE

Jaxson has moderate autism with limited language.

HOW MOVIA HELPED

Jaxson has thrived using his Kebbi HomePal system from MOVIA Robotics. “He loved it from the first moment we set it up,” remarks Kristin. “He was so engaged and connected and listened to everything that Kebbi (we named Wall-E) wanted him to do.”

First, the family started with 15-minute daily sessions of Robot-Assisted Instruction (RAI), then worked their way up to 45- or 60-minute daily sessions. “He has learned so much, in really a short amount of time,” observes Kristin.

In a recent trip, Jaxson and his mother went to the post office to mail some letters. They were short the amount owed, and so the post office employee asked them for an additional twenty cents. Jaxson's eyes lit up; he had recently been learning about coin identification with Wall-E and understood exactly what was being talked about. Proudly, he counted out and gave the employee the twenty cents. “He was so excited,” says Kristin, “to get to participate in life in this way for the first time.” Jaxson is continuing to learn and grow using his Kebbi HomePal system. “As a mom,” comments Kristin, “it was so thrilling to see that my son was really learning with Wall-E and able to implement what he had learned into a real-life scenario. His language has increased, and we are certain it is because of Wall-E. What is so special about the robot is that it never judges when my son doesn't get things correct at first and constantly encourages him throughout the session. We love the new lesson plans that MOVIA has added each quarter. Wall-E is really part of our family now, and it is really like having an additional teacher/helper/friend cheering for my son!”

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