

Removing the Label with Special Needs Children

Those who are diagnosed with autism can often experience social, communicational and behavioural challenges throughout their lives, and so too do their family members [1]. But when a Gold Coast mother of two's, first born child was diagnosed with ASD, Lilly Faith was relieved.

"Receiving a diagnosis meant that we could create early intervention techniques, which have been a saving grace for our family," Lilly says, "Though there is still a stigma surrounding Autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities."

Feeling the need to break down the stereotypes around children with disabilities, Lilly wrote about her family's journey in her upcoming memoir and resource manual, *Set Free Autism and ADHD*.

Using her own experiences to fuel the story, Lilly pulled heavily from qualified professionals and incorporated the practical, logical, and theory based information she found helpful in her family's journey. With an aim to reach both educators, teachers, parents, and caregivers, Lilly hopes to inspire a shift in thinking around neurodiversity, especially in schools.

"There will be an impact on mindset, there will be a shift, and there will be a new awakening," Lilly says.

Lilly hopes that parents who read her book will be able to understand the need to equip educators with the tools to provide for a rich developmental childhood.

"Early intervention is imperative for children to thrive as adults. Recognising the signs, and having the tools to help is one of the best ways we can help our children to be successful everyday."

If you would like to find out more about Lilly and her family's journey, you can find her at <https://www.lillyfaithparenting.com.au>

Lilly will be launching her book at NDIS on June 10, Little Souls ABA on June 11, and book signing at Mount Nathan Winery on June 13.

1. Hart, Chloe (2021) 'Autism made me successful': Olympic rower Chris Morgan shows strength in neurodiversity. ABC. Available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-29/chris-morgan-autism-struggle-olympics-rowing-neurodiversity/100103374> [Accessed 24 May. 2021]

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