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Special Education

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**What is it like?**

As prospective parents we obtain high expectations even before a baby is born, we create images and scenarios in our head, of all these wonderful events that will take place. Unconsciously or concisely we always expect a healthy baby. Aside from reenacting scenarios, we dream that our baby will one day impress us and be someone important in life. To what extent our imagination takes us to different places for everybody, however in our mind it is very clear that the baby will be healthy at the very least. These dreams and expectations is what cause the biggest heartbreak, when hearing that your baby might not be as normal as the other children in the classroom.

To have a child of special needs must be a one of the biggest surprise a future mother can get. After a mother has carried a baby for 9 months the last thought in her mind is that “her baby” is not going to be normal. No one really asks to have a special needs child from the gecko. However how is possible for a parent to deny his own prodigy in life. Therefore I believe that denial that your son/daughter will not be normal must be one of the first steps. Once that has sink I believe the parents goes thru a series of emotions. From looking at the movie Helen Keller it has made me reflect a lot of what I personally would do as a parent and made me realize the roller coaster ride I would have taken, just as Helen parents did in the movie. A series of events that pertain, conduct, learning, and hopeful; these characteristics are not easy to master, but must be done to best of ones ability. Hope is key and one that must not be lost throughout raising your child.

Once a parent has acknowledged the fact that his child is of special needs I, we naturally feel pity. And if not pity, but a sense of being over protective to the point that we misconduct ourselves and give the child everything. Watching a child cry is hard enough, however when you know he is at a disadvantage, we try to go beyond the extra mile to make the child smile. Which naturally result in spoiling. It is true a child maybe a bit abnormal to some sense yet; the same structure of parenting must be conducted. For instance, in the movie Helen Keller; Helen got beyond spoiled with candy; her parents, friends and working staff gave it to her. For the reason that no one fully understood her, yet no one wanted to see her cry because they felt some sort of pity. They knew that life for her was already tough so if she began to cry they gave her a piece of candy. A bad a traitorous road they had elected. Little did the parents know that they were feeding this behavior of spoiling Helen to the point that it was becoming unbeneficial to both Helen and them as parents. This type of behavior only makes it harder to work with in the long run because, Helen had created a routine, which she knew she just had to cry to get piece of candy. A routine that any other parent would have cut if their child were “normal “. Therefore adjusting boundaries of enough nurture and enough strict conduct is needed in order to be a successful parent, but as many parents would say that task alone is not an easy one to fulfill.

So what do you do in order to teach a child that is not quiet as normal? This is where I believe the second biggest factor in the movie comes in to play. Just because a child is not considered “normal” it does not mean they are totally different, it just means that there is some re-adjusting that is going to be made in order to accommodate the child’s need. For instance Helen was being thought signed language, a hindrance to some people, but to the parents, it is going to be an extra step to learn to communicate with their child. A form of adjusting to the circumstance they did not plan. A factor like this is what makes a child of special needs, special, because of the extra steps needed to accommodate. Parents learning to be parents is a tasks hard alone, and conducting themselves a certain way with a child of special needs is a whole new experience, where detail is very important and ought to not be taken lightly. Learning has a steep learning curve when you have a child with a disability because there is no set rule to follow as a parent. However this example is one of many, especially when there are various irregularities that could make a child special needs. Adjusting to some needs might be easier than other, yet detail to the child still remains key.

Therefore other steps needed are obtaining the right facility that fits our need for the child. We sometimes forget how much we take for granted the minimalists things that we use in our day-to-day lives. From steps, to ramps, letters to brail these are things we do not understand sometimes and are subtle things that we have to accommodate or invest in order to facilitate the need of the child. As “normal” people we take for granted the agility and flexibility we have to transporting, many other children do not have the resources that we might have. Something, that has to be taken into account before leaving the house.

In addition there are “small” steps that we miss out sometimes and leave out the picture. For instance in the movie, they fail to show what happens next when she becomes an adult. For some special needs people, they must carry out as regular people and branch out, depending on their disability. But as a parent it must be a difficult task. Leaving your child confront the real world. Depending on the disability and the training that you have given your child there might be a chance for them to go and confront the world on their own. An alarming thought to some, yet a big badge for those “children”, a surreal task, but at the same a really great privilege to demonstrate that they are capable to do just as much as some of us “normal” people.

In conclusion, one of the biggest grieves for a mother is that it happens as a surprise, we do not understand why the child has become the way he is. We do not know that our child will be one of special needs, and if we do we always expect them to get better. I believe that once you learn to accept the baby that you have brought in, you begin to manage it a bit better. Coping with the situation is one of the biggest hindrances as a parent and by no means is it an easy one to get by. But nonetheless I believe by nature the mother is always there, to nurture her child and be supportive. I believe that no matter what the disability it may a mother still cares with the same love and affection that any other parent would love their “normal” son.