Einstein

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Kristine Barnett noticed that her little boy Jacob – whom doctors had tagged as autistic – seemed to have a fascination with patterns. So she took him out of his school’s special ed program and let him study the things he’s passionate about. Now Jacob is on his way to winning a Nobel Prize.

Jacob Barnett, who was diagnosed with moderate to severe autism at 2 years old, is now studying for a master’s degree in quantum physics.

Jacob was silent for much of his childhood. But when he started to speak, he was able to communicate in four different
languages.

As a child, doctors told Jacob Barnett’s parents that their autistic son would probably never know how to tie his shoes.

But experts say the 14-year-old Indiana prodigy has an IQ higher than Einstein’s and is on the road to winning a Nobel Prize. He’s given TedX talks and is working toward a master’s degree in quantum physics.

The key, according to mom Kristine Barnett, was letting Jacob be himself — by helping him study the world with wide-eyed wonder instead of focusing on a list of things he couldn’t do.

Diagnosed with moderate to severe autism at the age of 2, Jacob spent years in the clutches of a special education system that didn’t understand what he needed. His teachers at school would try to dissuade Kristine from hoping to teach Jacob any more than the most basic skills.

Jacob was struggling with that sort of instruction — withdrawing deeper into himself and refusing to speak with anyone.

But Kristine noticed that when he was not in therapy, Jacob was doing “spectacular things” on his own.

“He would create maps all over our floor using Q-tips. They would be maps of places we’ve visited and he would memorize every street,” Kristine told the BBC.

One day, his mom took him stargazing. A few months later, they visited a planetarium where a professor was giving a lecture. Whenever the teacher asked questions, Jacob’s little hand shot up and he began to answer questions — easily understanding complicated theories about physics and the movement of planets.

Jacob was just 3-1/2 years old.

His mom realized that Jacob might need something that the standard special education curriculum just wasn’t giving him.

So Kristine decided to take on the job herself.

“For a parent, it’s terrifying to fly against the advice of the professionals,” Kristine writes in her memoir, “The Spark: A Mother’s Story of Nurturing Genius.” “But I knew in my heart that if Jake stayed in special ed, he would slip away.”

His IQ rounds out to 170 — higher than that of Albert Einstein. He’s been working on his own theory of relativity. Professors at Princeton’s Institute for Advance Study were impressed.

“The theory that he’s working on involves several of the toughest problems in astrophysics and theoretical physics,” astrophysics Professor Scott Tremaine wrote to the family in an email.

“Anyone who solves these will be in line for a Nobel Prize.”

Warner Bros. has snatched up movie rights to Jacob’s story. Kristine and her son have embarked on a European book tour, but hope to have some time to rest by July.
“My goal for the summer is just to give him a few weeks off,” Kristine told the Indianapolis Monthly. “The last time he had that was when he came up with the alternative theory to the Big Bang. So who knows what he’ll create?”

Source:
nydailynews.com
Boy Genius Diagnosed With Autism Has IQ Higher than Einstein | Earth. We are one.

Aaron Hird
Mel Roycroft the BRITISH english is the original... like many things, the other is just the US trying to 'recreate the wheel'. it IS english, after all.
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Verity Bradley · Works at ABA Therapy UK
I really dislike the tone of the language in this article "tagged with autism" in the clutches of special education" "therapy only teaching him the basic skills". Yes let's celebrate that Jacob is part of that 8% of children with autism who present a skill set that can be above average or savant even, but not at the expense of disparaging the entire system who help 100% (i.e. 92% of people with autism are not little Einsteins and are all supported too, but the media doesn't give them articles because that's not interesting). It does not specify which therapies or methods of special education he was receiving but not all in the industry stop fostering special interests and thirst for knowledge and passions.
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Maureen Skaar · Follow · Top Commenter · Kaplan University Online
Well, miss truth [as that is what your name means] savants rarely have such high IQ's so take your opinion and you know where it can go.
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Paul Brenda Smith
The system does not work and never will. There are only a few teachers out there who really have a gift in helping these children and their hands are tied to step out of the box of the "system". The kids with these disabilities like autism and aspergers are falling through the cracks, meanwhile they dumb down the curriculum and expectations so that they are able to push them through the system and look successful. All the while the kids are unable to adapt to the traditional method of learning so don't get an education of any kind and they feel like failures, thanks to the "System". Its all about looking good on paper and the bottom line.
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Bernie Nixon · University of British Columbia
Paul Brenda Smith Perfect summation. My hands were tied at one point when i tried to do some out-of-the-box teaching, when i was teaching a group of six students with autism. Unfortunately, my "better knowing" supervisors didn't like it :) I was trying to show that we can actually have HIGH expectations for students on the autism spectrum, and that they can rise to the challenge, when given the combination of structure in scheduling, and freedom in learning. Alas, that didn't suit the paradigm...-
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Anna Maria Meadows Helvie · Owner/Massage Therapist at Sole To Spirit Body and Energy Therapies
This is a marvelous story and I can't wait to hear more about this gifted young man.
I am stepmother to two autistic young adults who, sadly, do not manifest this level of IQ. Their special education teachers did a good job with them, as does their own mother, who is their caregiver. A lot of states have cut funding and reduced teachers and positions. With all the special needs kids, it is increasingly difficult to give each child special attention that might catch glimpses of gifts and potentials. Most of our special ed teachers do the best they can, and I think it is important to point that out.
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Yvee Bee
I have my own Jacob Barnett (Literally) He is 16 now, and all through his schooling he has not been able to fit into the system. He is often judged by his behaviour and odd ways. He only manages part time schooling mostly one on one. I worry about his education, though, i'm sure he is absolutely brilliant in many things, but unable to cope with classes and rules that make no sense to him. I am hoping that he will be able to pursue much more as an adult. It gives me a thrill to know there is another Jacob Barnett in this world who has Asperger Syndrome, and is an inspiration to all around him. Go Jacob. I'd love to hear your alternative to the big bang theory. God bless you. Yvonne Barnett :) 
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Betty Wilson · Follow · Top Commenter
I appreciate your positive attitude, Yvee! Good for you and your son! Just keep loving and accepting him (which I know you already do!!)...and life will be fine! Bless you both!!
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Deborah Blish · Follow · Ownership at Heaven & Earth Connections
It would be nice if these 2 young men could meet / connect. I feel it would be great for both of them.
Reply · Like · 1 - 11 hours ago

Emma Bragdon · Founder, Director at Founder/ Director at Spiritual Alliances, LLC
"Waiting for Weston" is another book about a boy who was diagnosed with severe autism and couldn't tie his shoes. He is an extraordinary healer in his twenties at this point.
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