



Our Visit to Jacob World by Amy Smith

For several months, my son Jacob has been telling me that he was going to visit Jacob World. Although my husband and I do not know where Jacob World is, we played along since he was actually using his imagination, something we have worked on with years of ABA therapy, just trying to get to "pretend play". According to Jacob, Jacob World is a wonderful place filled with all the Jacobs, there are Jacob mommies, and Jacob daddies and Jacob animals. A fantastic place to visit if your name is Jacob.

Starting sometime in February, he mentioned he was going to go the Jacob World at the end of February, and then as that got closer, he was going to go at the end of March, as the got closer the end of April. As we moved through the month of April, he never changed his visit time for going to Jacob World. I was little concerned that since he can be rather rigid at times, we needed to keep an eye on him. The month continued to pass with little mention of his upcoming "trip".

On Thursday morning, shortly after breakfast, Jacob came up to me and asked "what's today?" Not really thinking anything of it, I said "Thursday." He said "no, what is the date?" "April 30th", I replied. He said "thank you" and ran upstairs to his room, to play I figured.

As I sat in my chair in my living

room, attempting to watch the weather and drink my morning coffee, I see my sweet Jacob walk by windows on our side porch and out the door he went. I yelled for him to stop and ran after him. I asked him where he was going. "To Jacob World" was his reply, "but I'll be back tomorrow". As I looked at



him, standing there in his pajamas, sneakers on, a bag of his favorite stuffed animals hanging off a foam baseball bat over his shoulder, I realize that he is serious and I am not going to be able to talk my little man out of it. I had to think fast. I told him that you can't go unless you are dressed, since "they don't let you into Jacob World in your pajamas." He said you had to go there in the car anyways, so I should drive him. He went upstairs to get dressed and I had to think fast.

I had mentioned his Jacob World fantasy to Kathy Taylor (god love her) at a support group earlier that month. I quickly called the Center and left a scattered message that we were coming and to please write a quick sign, saying "welcome to Jacob World" in hopes that this would work and that we

would be there around 9:30.

We arrived at the center at promptly 9:30 and he was quite excited, but still not sure that it was the real Jacob World. We were greeted by Julie Goren with a big hello, and told her we were there for "Jacob World" with a wink, she jumped right on board and welcomed us all to Jacob World. Jake's eyes lit up, his smile was as big as his head and he said "we are really here!"

We went around the corner from the lobby and there were 2 signs that welcomed us to Jacob World, along with Kathy Taylor, oh thank god! He read the sign and I think he was so excited he almost peed his pants! We went into the kids room in the back and they played for a while, they were given toys as keepsakes from our fantastic visit to Jacob World.

Kathy took our picture as a memento and it is hanging in his bedroom at home, along with the 2 signs that she told him to take and hang there so that he can visit Jacob World everyday now at home.

He was so excited from his visit, as well as his brothers amazement that there really was a Jacob World, that is was just his most perfect day ever. What started out as something that could have been a complete tragedy, since he was really going to get there that day, ended with a huge success and diverted a disaster.

When people ask me what the center does for me, I tell them that they made my Jacob dream of Jacob World a reality!