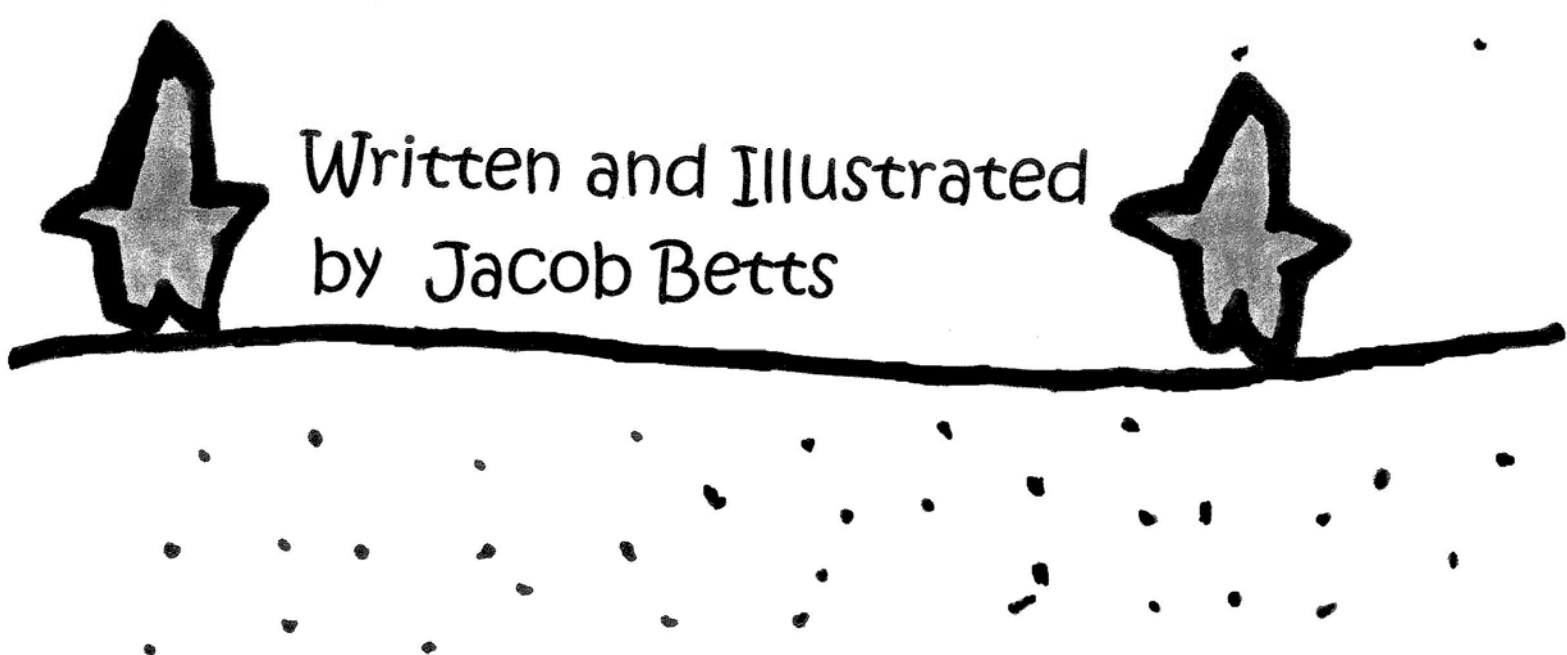




My Brother Has
Asperger
Syndrome



Written and Illustrated
by Jacob Betts

My Brother Has Asperger Syndrome

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Jacob Betts

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This book is dedicated to my
brother.

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Why I Wrote this Book

I wrote this book because I want you to know about me, myself, and I, with a little about Sam, my brother.

I am nine years old and my family is nice. I have two twin sisters, two brothers, a dad, and a mom.

My twin sisters are getting potty trained. Once my twin sisters get potty trained, we are going to get a cat. My twin sisters like to draw on the walls.

That is what makes them get into
A LOT of trouble. They're cute
and they like to bite me.

My little brother Nick had his
fifth birthday in February. My
dad calls him the "The Feento
Man" and "Keepatee" because we
don't know why. Nick likes
Thomas the Tank Engine and he
likes to play with his next door
neighbor Hallie.

My mom helps me out a lot with
homework and she doesn't like
me and my little brother Nick

fighting (but we still fight sometimes anyway).

My dad likes to wrestle with me and I like to wrestle him too. We like to watch football together and we like to play football together. We like to ride bikes far distances and we like to go to my grandparents' houses.

My brother Sam has Asperger Syndrome. He is different than the rest of our family. He needs a little help. I am writing this book because I wanted to tell other

kids and parents a little about my life. It is hard sometimes having a brother with Asperger's. But, he is still o.k., once in a while.

Jacob Betts

Sam Gets More Attention

I think Sam has more attention than me because one time at night time I was reading a book and I heard Sam, mom, and dad were talking to each other.

I thought that was unfair for me because they were spending time with Sam instead of me.

What I did about it...

So I talked to my mom and dad about the situation and they thought since Sam has Asperger's, we should give him time with us but, they said that they would still spend time with me too.



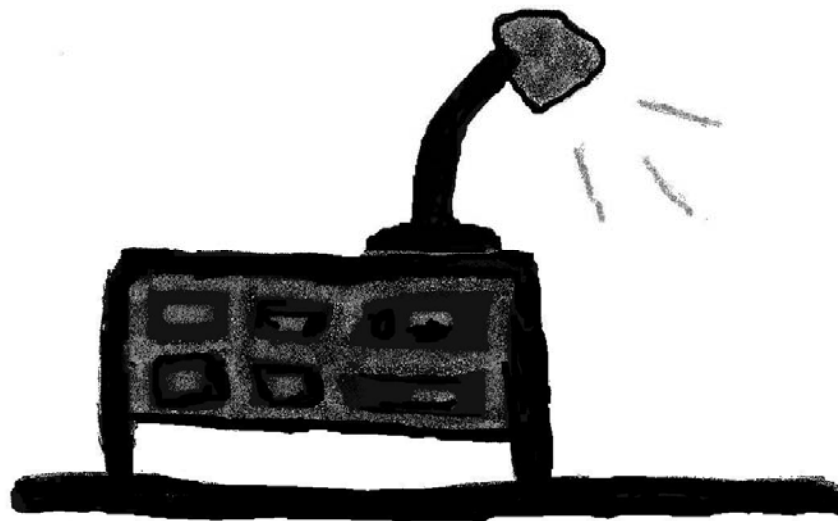
At Night (My Brother Gets To Stay Up With the Light On)

My brother gets to stay up more than me and I don't know why he gets to. I really want to stay up too. He gets to keep his light on when he goes to sleep.

What I did about this situation...

I asked my mom, "Why does he get to stay up so late and I don't?" My mother replied, "I

have two good reasons. One, he is a night owl and you're not. And two, he has Asperger's and you don't." But, sometimes I still complain about it.



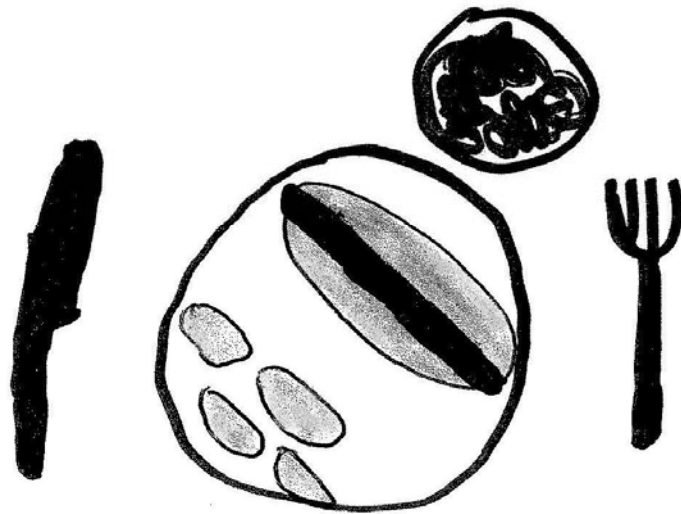
Sam Gets Special Food

Sam gets different kinds of food than me because he doesn't really like the stuff that mom makes. I think I should get different kinds of food too because it's only fair. When mom makes some kind of soup for everybody, Sam gets a tuna sandwich with chips, but I don't.

What I did about this...

I talked to mom about it and she said since Sam has Asperger's, he doesn't like the food that I cook

sometimes. That's why he gets a tuna sandwich with chips. I still think it's unfair even if he has Asperger's. Sometimes I do get different kinds of food like peanut butter and jelly and fluff with chips.



Dinnertime

Sometimes at dinnertime, my brother flaps because he has Asperger's. Flapping is when Sam claps his hands really loud and yells. That is what makes all of us stop eating and not have a long dinnertime.

What I did about this situation...

I told him and my mom and dad told him to flap in his room not at dinner. He doesn't flap anymore at dinner because he doesn't want to disturb everyone.



I Have to Do All the Work (Sometimes)

Sometimes I have to do all the work. It is hard taking care of my sisters, taking out the trash, and getting the newspaper. Well, maybe not the newspaper, but sometimes it's hard because it's cold outside.

The reason I have to do lots of work because my older brother Sam has Asperger's and he can't do some stuff that I can do.

What I did about this...

I asked my mom, "Why do I have to do most of the work?" She said, "Well, you're older brother Sam has Asperger's and he can't do all of the stuff you can do." I didn't complain about doing most of the work ever again.



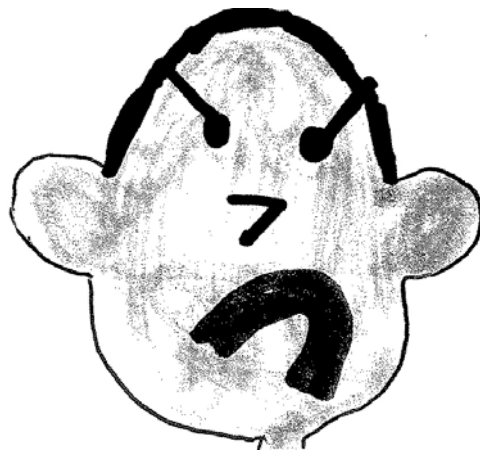
My Brother Gets Mad at Me (Sometimes)

My brother gets mad at me sometimes because sometimes when I am playing XBox, he asks if he can play. When I say no, he yells, and screams, and calls me names sometimes.

Another reason he gets mad at me is because I bug the heck out of him sometimes. Then, he starts saying, "Mom, Jacob's bothering me, oh, yea, yea!" Then, I get in trouble. Then, he cools down.

What I did about this...

I still bother him because I get bored, but I have to stop doing this because I'll get in trouble. Also, if I think about, I don't want to make Sam mad, or make him scream.



Going to Services

Sometimes I go to services with my brother and my mom. My brother and I get bored sometimes because we don't like sitting around and doing nothing except listening to prayers.

But, my mom said that we were allowed to read books. So, we read books.

Then we got tired of reading and started to goof around a little bit.

So, my mom suggested that we went to the playroom where you still can hear the prayers. Now, when we go to services with my mom, we go to the playroom when we get tired and bored.

Another thing is when my brother has to stand in front of the audience, he hides beyond other kids. At least he went up to the front.

He used to not go up at all. I sometimes have to help him tell him that there is nothing he should be scared of. Sometimes I hold onto his arm.



What Parents Should Do...

Parents should respect Asperger kids because they need some help. You should let them have special kinds of foods and treat them kindly. I think you should let them do some stuff that they want to do, like let them flap in their room.

Parents can help brothers and sisters of children with Asperger's. You can talk to him or her about Asperger's. You can talk him or her about why he or

she gets more attention
sometimes, or gets to have
special food.

Parents should spend some extra
time with all of their children so
nobody will feel left out.

Sometimes parents should give
their non-Asperger's child a
special kind of food because
maybe the non-Asperger child
wants special kinds of food too.

Most of all, sometimes parents
should let their non-Asperger

child do stuff that their
Asperger child is allowed to do
like stay up late.

