

A New Way Forward:

How David Found His Independence

By Nadine Schumont, Licensed Davis® Facilitator @ Picture Perfect Learning Solutions

When David started the Davis Autism Approach®, he had one wish — to live more independently.

Like many living with high-functioning autism, even basic routines were a struggle. Taking a shower meant his mom had to remind him many times, and getting the water to the right temperature was frustrating. With his new understanding of Sequence and Order, David placed a small sticker on the shower handle — marking where the water should be. That one change made showers easy and gave him a sense of control.

As he worked through early Davis Concepts like Change, Consequence, Cause and Effect, and Before and After, David began using a calendar to plan his self-care. Soon, he didn't need reminders — he was managing his own routines with pride.

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BEFORE



AFTER



The breakthrough came with Order and Disorder. Together, we organized his bedroom, transforming a cluttered, overwhelming space into calm and clarity. When I returned a month later, David told me, “I’m keeping order, and as a result, my room is clean. I don’t clean my room — I just put my things where I want them.”

That simple truth changed everything. David started cooking his own meals, doing his laundry, and helping with family projects like organizing for new windows and a furnace. He’s now socializing, engaging, and part of family life every day.

David is legally blind and has struggled with his vision for years, but through this process, his eyes have become steadier. He can now see more around him — not just what’s directly in front of him — and that awareness has brought him joy and confidence.

While completing his Concepts, David even became an ordained priest, achieving a personal dream he once thought impossible. Under the care of his doctor and with his mom’s support, he’s also been able to safely transition off ADHD medication after more than 20 years.

And the journey isn’t over — David will soon begin his Social Identity Concepts, building deeper understanding of relationships and community.

The Davis Autism Approach® didn’t just change David’s routines — it changed his life. He’s discovering who he is, what he can do, and how good it feels to live with purpose, peace, and pride.