

Marcos and the Moon, a story teaching children how to interact with classmates with autism

LOCATION: Mairena del Aljarafe, Seville

LENGTH: 1'38"

SUMMARY: Little Marcos is a boy with autism from Mairena del Aljarafe, in Seville. He had some difficulties adjusting when he started school – he wasn't used to being with so many other children and it made him nervous. For this reason, his mother, Iria Juaneda, has written 'Marcos and the Moon', a story inspired by her son, and his quirks, which she is hoping will teach his classmates how to understand and help him. The story has had so much success that she has received an offer of publication.

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'Marcos and the Moon' is a story written and illustrated in order to help children with autism. And, most of all, it shows a little snippet of life, of real life.

In real life, Marcos loves the moon.

Background

- "Look, you have a surprise there."

- "Ah, is it a surprise for mummy?"

He also loves his mother, even more than he loves the Moon. Marcos has a strange way of interacting with the world. Sometimes he doesn't know how to act, at times he doesn't understand what other children are saying... He lives with what doctors call autism.

Iria Juaneda
Author of 'Marcos and the Moon'

"When Marcos started school, the adjustment process was complicated for him, because he's not used to being with so many children, he was very anxious... So we needed to explain to those children how to help Marcos."

But how to go about doing this? Iria chose to write a story.

Background

And the Moon sings with a very sweet voice. Show him photos or drawings of what you mean...

... so that he understands you better. Let him hold things in his hand, he'll feel safer...

The story, written by Iria and Marcos's grandmother, and illustrated by the mother of a classmate, has been a success here at his school in Mairena del Aljarafe.

Iria Juaneda
Author of 'Marcos and the Moon'

"We have seen really lovely gestures from the children, and it's clearly a result of 'Marcos and the Moon'. They hug him sitting down."



It has been such a positive experience that one publisher has decided to make an offer on the story. So that the sweet Moon, Marcos's friend, can continue to teach children at other schools and in other towns how to treat classmates with autism.

Background

TheEnd

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