1

00:00:02,760 --> 00:00:07,200

Find your community and find people that give you joy and lift

2

00:00:07,200 --> 00:00:08,120

you up on the journey.

3

00:00:08,760 --> 00:00:11,440

You're no longer limited to the ability of the child.

4

00:00:11,440 --> 00:00:14,440

You're limited by the ability of the people who surround

5

00:00:14,440 --> 00:00:15,200

that child.

6

00:00:15,200 --> 00:00:17,000

And that's what makes a good life.

7

00:00:18,720 --> 00:00:21,200

We had three under three for a very brief

8

00:00:21,200 --> 00:00:22,240

period of time.

9

00:00:22,240 --> 00:00:26,160

And I was so busy just looking after children that I didn't pick up

10

00:00:26,160 --> 00:00:30,240

Jamie's diagnosis until he hurt his leg.

11

00:00:30,680 --> 00:00:35,120

We went to a paediatrician and he was asking

12

00:00:35,120 --> 00:00:37,840

a lot of questions that I didn't think was relevant to

13

00:00:37,840 --> 00:00:39,560

a kid with a limp.

14

00:00:39,560 --> 00:00:42,200

I quickly opened his letter and the letter was a one liner

15

00:00:42,200 --> 00:00:44,840

saying ‘possible disorder’.

16

00:00:44,840 --> 00:00:47,840

And then I Googled what possibly could be a disorder for a

17

00:00:47,840 --> 00:00:48,880

two year old.

18

00:00:48,880 --> 00:00:50,880

And autism came up.

19

00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:53,880

I just started bawling my eyes out because I knew in my heart

20

00:00:53,880 --> 00:00:58,080

that he is totally autistic because he pretty much ticked

21

00:00:58,080 --> 00:00:59,040

every box.

22

00:00:59,640 --> 00:01:02,640

We just charged into a massive process of trying to

23

00:01:02,640 --> 00:01:04,520

figure out where we could get trusted

24

00:01:04,520 --> 00:01:05,680

information.

25

00:01:05,680 --> 00:01:09,600

And we got information that was untrusted and untrustworthy all

26

00:01:09,600 --> 00:01:11,160

the way through to rolled gold stuff.

27

00:01:11,160 --> 00:01:12,560

And it was a really confusing time.

28

00:01:13,400 --> 00:01:16,400

He had really full on behaviours at that stage.

29

00:01:16,400 --> 00:01:17,680

He was aggressive.

30

00:01:17,680 --> 00:01:18,400

He was getting bigger.

31

00:01:18,400 --> 00:01:21,400

He was eight and nine at this stage.

32

00:01:21,400 --> 00:01:25,000

Jamie was suspended, expelled, whatever you want to call it,

33

00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:26,600

from three different schools.

34

00:01:27,440 --> 00:01:30,200

Where we started to really kick off and actually get into a more

35

00:01:30,200 --> 00:01:33,640

positive frame of schooling was actually when we went to a local

36

00:01:33,640 --> 00:01:36,720

intermediate that had a dedicated special needs unit.

37

00:01:36,720 --> 00:01:39,240

Oh, you're doing some good cleaning, Jamie.

38

00:01:39,240 --> 00:01:42,240

You know, that was a revelation for us that actually Jamie was

39

00:01:42,240 --> 00:01:43,640

going to be in that hybrid space.

40

00:01:43,640 --> 00:01:45,400

He wasn't at a special needs school.

41

00:01:45,400 --> 00:01:46,680

He needed to be mainstream.

42

00:01:46,680 --> 00:01:49,000

But this was what he could handle.

43

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:52,200

And even more crucially, we found our people.

44

00:01:52,200 --> 00:02:00,520

I happened to meet someone at a disability expo

45

00:02:00,520 --> 00:02:02,240

who said ‘how’s life’?

46

00:02:02,240 --> 00:02:04,480

And I did my usual ‘life's great’.

47

00:02:04,480 --> 00:02:05,920

And then she goes, ‘how’s life really?’

48

00:02:05,920 --> 00:02:08,120

Because she also had a special needs child.

49

00:02:08,120 --> 00:02:09,720

And I went ‘actually life’s not great.’

50

00:02:10,280 --> 00:02:12,760

JJ, come and unpack the dishwasher please.

51

00:02:13,320 --> 00:02:15,240

She goes, ‘well what do you want for your other children?’

52

00:02:15,240 --> 00:02:16,800

I said, ‘Oh, that's easy.’

53

00:02:16,800 --> 00:02:18,640

You know, I want them to have friends.

54

00:02:18,640 --> 00:02:21,480

I want them to be loved, be part of a community,

55

00:02:21,480 --> 00:02:24,120

and feel like they contribute.

56

00:02:24,120 --> 00:02:26,600

And she said, ‘Well, why wouldn't you want that for Jamie?’

57

00:02:26,600 --> 00:02:27,520

And I thought about it.

58

00:02:27,520 --> 00:02:28,120

I do.

59

00:02:28,120 --> 00:02:29,480

I want that for Jamie, too.

60

00:02:29,480 --> 00:02:33,800

And that's what set us on this path of

61

00:02:33,800 --> 00:02:35,160

moving forward.

62

00:02:36,440 --> 00:02:37,160

What is this?

63

00:02:37,160 --> 00:02:39,360

This is Jamie's path, isn't it, Jamie?

64

00:02:39,360 --> 00:02:41,360

Do you remember the path with the big red car?

65

00:02:41,360 --> 00:02:42,200

Big red car.

66

00:02:42,200 --> 00:02:42,720

Yeah.

67

00:02:42,720 --> 00:02:44,040

And where did Jamie go?

68

00:02:44,040 --> 00:02:46,280

Did he go to school with his brothers?

69

00:02:46,280 --> 00:02:46,960

Brothers.

70

00:02:46,960 --> 00:02:47,640

Yeah.

71

00:02:48,400 --> 00:02:51,400

This for me is a technique that we use on planning

72

00:02:51,400 --> 00:02:53,200

a better future for our family that I've used

73

00:02:53,200 --> 00:02:54,600

in the corporate world actually.

74

00:02:54,600 --> 00:02:56,560

Really, really powerful.

75

00:02:56,560 --> 00:02:58,280

And did you used to catch the bus to school?

76

00:02:58,280 --> 00:02:59,200

Bus to school.

77

00:02:59,200 --> 00:03:01,360

Yeah, we learned to catch the bus, didn't we?

78

00:03:01,360 --> 00:03:02,760

That was fun.

79

00:03:02,760 --> 00:03:04,040

When you’re a parent to a disabled child,

80

00:03:04,040 --> 00:03:08,040

you often feel it's only you and you are excluded

81

00:03:08,040 --> 00:03:10,000

from others help because your child has

82

00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:13,000

challenging behaviours or you're feeling ashamed

83

00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:13,840

or unable.

84

00:03:13,840 --> 00:03:16,480

So what this is, is a great way to enrol other

85

00:03:16,480 --> 00:03:17,760

people in your vision.

86

00:03:17,760 --> 00:03:19,800

And actually you can ask for help.

87

00:03:19,800 --> 00:03:23,680

And that for the parent of a disabled child is absolutely amazing

88

00:03:23,680 --> 00:03:26,120

that someone else is walking the journey with you.

89

00:03:27,200 --> 00:03:28,760

What were you doing here?

90

00:03:28,760 --> 00:03:29,480

Camping.

91

00:03:29,480 --> 00:03:31,000

Yeah you went camping

92

00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:33,280

and look, sailing.

93

00:03:33,280 --> 00:03:33,960

What’s this?

94

00:03:33,960 --> 00:03:35,080

Jumps off the wharf.

95

00:03:35,080 --> 00:03:35,600

Yeah.

96

00:03:35,600 --> 00:03:37,480

That was fun, wasn't it, with your brothers?

97

00:03:38,840 --> 00:03:42,600

We were at a stage where we needed more support

98

00:03:42,600 --> 00:03:45,040

and then individual funding was

99

00:03:45,040 --> 00:03:46,280

a game changer.

100

00:03:46,280 --> 00:03:47,880

The cash is available to us.

101

00:03:47,880 --> 00:03:49,440

We have to work out what we do with it

102

00:03:49,440 --> 00:03:50,720

to benefit to Jamie.

103

00:03:50,720 --> 00:03:53,720

And we now have people that come into our home that we like,

104

00:03:53,720 --> 00:03:55,440

that Jamie likes.

105

00:03:55,440 --> 00:03:57,960

Individualized funding has given us the tools that we

106

00:03:57,960 --> 00:04:00,080

can go and we can tailor that to what a good life

107

00:04:00,080 --> 00:04:03,080

looks like for Jamie the individual, not Jamie,

108

00:04:03,080 --> 00:04:06,080

the disabled person that needs to fit into a

109

00:04:06,080 --> 00:04:08,080

particular methodology.

110

00:04:09,240 --> 00:04:11,240

Jamie what are we building?

111

00:04:11,240 --> 00:04:13,200

We're going to build a…

112

00:04:13,200 --> 00:04:14,160

Rocket ship.

113

00:04:14,160 --> 00:04:15,400

A rocket ship?

114

00:04:16,280 --> 00:04:19,120

There was a job advertised by Jo on Neighbourly.

115

00:04:19,120 --> 00:04:21,240

At the time I was about 17.

116

00:04:21,240 --> 00:04:23,600

Things I've learned about Jamie is that he's very creative.

117

00:04:23,600 --> 00:04:26,440

He's also very courageous.

118

00:04:26,440 --> 00:04:30,240

A few years ago, Jamie and I went over to Australia together.

119

00:04:30,240 --> 00:04:32,160

His parents paid for us to go to the Gold Coast.

120

00:04:32,480 --> 00:04:36,360

We went to DreamWorld, SeaWorld.

121

00:04:36,360 --> 00:04:41,440

Part of those goals were him just becoming more independent.

122

00:04:41,440 --> 00:04:43,720

OK you've got your magic wand.

123

00:04:43,720 --> 00:04:44,360

Ready?

124

00:04:44,360 --> 00:04:45,680

Abracadabra.

125

00:04:45,680 --> 00:04:48,680

At the beginning, it was a job, but, you know, Jamie's, like,

126

00:04:48,680 --> 00:04:50,560

part of my family as well now.

127

00:04:50,560 --> 00:04:53,760

You know, we've built that really deep connection.

128

00:04:53,760 --> 00:04:57,440

Jo and Paul asked me if they can make me the legal guardian if

129

00:04:57,440 --> 00:04:58,920

something ever happens to them, you know if they

130

00:04:58,920 --> 00:05:00,440

both pass away.

131

00:05:00,440 --> 00:05:02,880

I said, Yeah, of course.

132

00:05:02,880 --> 00:05:05,880

You know, that means a lot to me because they obviously

133

00:05:05,880 --> 00:05:07,720

really trust me with Jamie.

134

00:05:09,880 --> 00:05:13,600

Today we’re going to do the fountain, the milk.

135

00:05:13,600 --> 00:05:14,720

Milk.

136

00:05:14,720 --> 00:05:15,840

Take the rubbish bins out.

137

00:05:15,840 --> 00:05:17,040

Rubbish bins out.

138

00:05:17,040 --> 00:05:19,680

And then we're going to put some dirt in our garden.

139

00:05:19,680 --> 00:05:21,040

Dirt in the garden.

140

00:05:21,520 --> 00:05:24,040

We figured out that Jamie needed a place in the community.

141

00:05:24,040 --> 00:05:24,960

He needed work.

142

00:05:24,960 --> 00:05:27,520

He needed purpose that aligned with his interests.

143

00:05:27,520 --> 00:05:30,040

And he needed an income and a life that was going to let us have

144

00:05:30,040 --> 00:05:33,040

a life that was also a bit independent of Jamie.

145

00:05:33,040 --> 00:05:37,160

And so we’ve bought a childcare business and Jamie is

146

00:05:37,160 --> 00:05:40,720

transitioning out of school and into that work environment.

147

00:05:40,720 --> 00:05:43,480

And so that's going to be his place in the community.

148

00:05:43,480 --> 00:05:45,360

Jamie, do you like working at Magic Garden?

149

00:05:45,360 --> 00:05:46,720

Working at the Magic Garden.

150

00:05:46,720 --> 00:05:47,400

Is that good?

151

00:05:47,400 --> 00:05:48,200

Good.

152

00:05:48,200 --> 00:05:48,840

Yes.

153

00:05:48,840 --> 00:05:49,360

Good.

154

00:05:49,360 --> 00:05:50,000

Happy.

155

00:05:51,200 --> 00:05:54,240

We want Jamie and have a great life involved in the community,

156

00:05:54,240 --> 00:05:57,440

loved and equally we want to have the space where

157

00:05:57,440 --> 00:06:01,040

we can go away and have our life as well

158

00:06:01,040 --> 00:06:03,280

and feel that Jamie is well cared for and having

159

00:06:03,280 --> 00:06:04,480

a great time.

160

00:06:04,480 --> 00:06:07,480

Everyone in your family deserves a good life.

161

00:06:07,480 --> 00:06:11,080

You're in a hard situation and it's going to be rough going.

162

00:06:11,080 --> 00:06:15,360

But as Paul said, you know, find the people that are going to boar

163

00:06:15,360 --> 00:06:17,200

you up and move you forward.