



## Key Take-Aways

A Self-Advocate's Inspiring Journey

Published online February 6, 2021

Summary: Emile Gouws' journey from childhood to self-advocate was filled with a lot of therapies, hard work, determination, and unwavering support and advocacy from his mother who provided constant stimulation, making sure he was happy and encouraged

- Parents have the responsibility to figure out what environments makes their children comfortable or uncomfortable, and to figure out which people involved will accept and understand all of their child's behaviour
- You will move forward, then you will hit a speed bump, but never give up because there is no replacement for hard work
- Parents need to provide structure and believe in their child's abilities, making learning opportunities fun for the child while being sensitive and empathetic towards them
- We need to advocate to ensure that society can include individuals on the autism spectrum without barriers, including in the education system because accessibility is a right, not a privilege

Link to this blog: <https://affectautism.com/2021/02/06/inspiration>