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|  | Parents’ Stories |
|  | Dr Avril V Brereton and Dr Kerry J Bull |

**Sanjay and his family**

We knew something wasn’t right from the very early days. My husband mentioned autism very early on – when Sanjay was about one. So we had talked about it a bit.

Sanjay was slower than our other two boys, but I wanted to give him time. We worked so hard to help him with his speech and his brothers taught him a lot. We went to a paediatrician when Sanjay was two and talked about our concerns. I was lucky that she listened. Sanjay was diagnosed with ASD and he has a developmental delay too.

By the time we got the diagnosis we pretty much knew. We’d done lot of research and talking to people. But it’s still not easy to hear, even though you’ve been leading up to it for some time. I still went home and cried. There were buckets of tears – why us? We felt alone. Then we picked ourselves up and kept going.

We got into an early intervention program and they helped us get him started at kindergarten. He needed a lot of time and support before he was settled. It was really hard for the first few months, but we all took it slowly. The teacher had quite a bit of experience with children with ASD and was so flexible. We used a lot of the same strategies to get him started at school. He’s going well.

For more information about the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s Autism Friendly Learning website go to:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/autism](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/autism)