**[Start of transcript]**

**Interviewer:** Great! We’re recording, magic! So, I'll be recording you and I'll be asking you questions about your perspective about your son's transition to adulthood in relation to his sensory sensitivities and interests, and I’ll be doing something called a semi-structured interview. So, I have my questions **[script]** but I’ll also be adapting our questions to follow our conversation, and kind of follow what you're saying, so that it makes sense for our conversation. Do you have any questions before we jump in?

**Interviewee:**  No, if I'm going to ask questions, I’ll ask as we go along or something.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, ask away, interrupt, don't worry about it **[both laughing].** So, first could you start off by telling me about your son's sensory sensitivities and interests?

**Interviewee:** So, he's 16 years old right now. I mean, he got a late diagnosis of Asperger’s, the Autism. Unfortunately, we weren't able to catch it early on. We thought it was some **[clearing throat]** Sorry.We thought it was just something to do with ADHD, you know, and his primary care doctor actually had known him since he was born actually. So, like, as he *[got]* to the middle school, you know, we didn’t [*think*] of it, I mean until he got into kind of like trouble, I should say. You know he was…really had a hard time in the middle school.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hmm.

**Interviewee:** And so that's what he was evaluated by the psychiatrist and that’s when he was diagnosed. Anyways, with the sensory sensitivity, I mean really, he is very touchy but kind of very sensitive about the texture of the food. He doesn't like certain…I would say, if you go to the restaurant, right, let’s say for that, he's going look [*at*] the menu or something like that. If he thinks that it's not going to...he doesn't kind of like. He's very particular, so to speak, I should say like the chain restaurants or something, he doesn't like those, so to speak, because he doesn't like the way sometimes they fry the food or something like that. He is very picky. He likes to eat but at the same time he just…there’s a certain texture of the food he doesn’t like. So sometimes he does his own cooking and something that does kind of satisfy his own, you know, cravings or something like that. So, that's one thing.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hmm

**Interviewee:** The clothing, I mean, he's…he doesn't like certain colors. He’s very…he won’t wear it if he doesn’t like…he’s very sensitive to that.

**Interviewer:** To certain colors? **[crosstalk]**

**Interviewee:** And also the texture…certain colors, yeah. And also, the make of the…like for the shirts, something like that. If it’s…mh-hmm, go ahead **[crosstalk]**.

**Interviewer:** No, no please, I didn’t mean to cut you off. **[03:00]**.

**Interviewee:** If it’s not cotton or something like that, he’s not going to like it. He likes cotton type of shirts. Any other different type of shirts, no way, he is not going to wear it. You’re just going to waste your money buying stuff for him if he's not going to even wear it. *Absolutely* not, yeah.

**Interviewer:** Got you. Regarding texture, are there certain textures that he likes more than others or is it kind of widespread?

**Interviewee:** It’s pretty much widespread I should say. But I would say more about the way people fry their food or something like that. He doesn't…there is a certain type of…I don't understand. I myself I don't understand what it is… **[Crosstalk]**

**Interviewer:** Yeah, sure.

**Interviewee:** But there are certain things that he doesn't like. If he doesn't think that it's right, he's not going to eat it.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Interviewee:** You know, he’s very particular about those things, you know, and he only eats certain types of food. He doesn't like, you know, he's doesn’t like…he only likes chicken, I would say. He is not going to go for anything. He only likes chicken.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hmm.

**Interviewee:** I tried and then he said, “*no*,” you know. I think he tried eating some pork, I should say. I think I see myself that he said he feels weird eating it, that type of thing.

**Interviewer:** Okay. Yeah.

**Interviewee:**  He just doesn't like the kind of texture of it or something.

**Interviewer**: Okay, interesting. So, you also mentioned cotton shirts. Does he also have that preference with other types of clothing?

**Interviewee:** Pretty much, I should say. Yes, you know.

**Interviewer:** And how does – Lavon, right? That's…is that how you say his name?

**Interviewee:**  Mm-hmm, yes.

**Interviewer**: How does Lavon handle the sensitivity, to both taste and to touch and his feelings?

**Interviewee:** I think now he's a lot older. I mean he's 16 right now, so I think he is able to kind of like, be able to kind of recognize what he actually wants. But for me, actually believe me it's hard for me, especially when we go shopping, I say, “*Oh my goodness!”* **[Laughing]** I'm more tired than anybody else, I’m telling you. I’d say, “*come on, come on*,” he is going to go from one of the stores, and he is going to look and then say, “*no!*”. But I said, “*it’s nice*,” but he said, “*nope, nope, I don’t want it.*” It was the toughest thing ever! I could not. Like for the life of me, I’m sorry, but it was tough for me. So sometimes I would just kind of have him, you know, I said, “*okay, can you look online or something, and see there’s maybe a style or something that you think that…*” And he is going to look at every single, you know, manufacturer or something, how they manufacture, the place or something like that, *everything*! He is very particular and it's tough, it's hard.

**Interviewer**: I’m sure.

**Interviewee:** But I kind of learned to live with it. But at the same time, now he's a lot older as opposed to before. As hard as…it is hard for me, but at least now I mean, he is kind of able to recognize actually what he wants.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, absolutely **[06:00].** So, you just talked a lot about like self-awareness and like recognizing his wants and needs. What do you think got him to that place of being able to be cognizant of his wants and needs?

**Interviewee:** Look, to be honest with you, I don't know. I'm not a hundred percent sure. I mean, I think he's a smart kid who just for **[06:20 inaudible]**. But I think he likes to read a bunch of stuff and then he is more into kind of like…be aware more like…self-aware for himself, like actually read. If he likes certain…let's say like clothing.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Interviewee:** He's going to research it, he is going to research it first.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Interviewee:** He likes it, but if he researched the particular make of that clothing, even though he likes it, he’s not going to want it.

**Interviewer:** So, he is not going to want it if he researches it? **[Crosstalk]**

**Interviewee:** So, he’s more…**[crosstalk]**

**Interviewer:** I’m sorry.

**Interviewee:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Oh, so he won’t…even if he likes it, if he researches it, then he won’t want it again?

**Interviewee:** Mm-hmm, yeah.

**Interviewer:** That's interesting. Okay, yeah. Has that…so in general has his sensitivities changed over time like, in terms of his particular-ness for what he eats or what he wears?

**Interviewee:** Actually lately, I mean for…it’s only lately actually that I’ve kind of been more aware of it, and kind of like, *“okay, oh my god, how did I not see this*?” **[Chuckles]**. I thought it was just “*okay, sometimes, whatever!*” But now he's a lot older, it’s kind of worse like, “*O.M.G, like are you serious? Like really*?” Now, I’m kind of really able to understand him a little bit more in terms of okay…and he's really had that sensory sensitivity issues with, you know, this certain food or certain type of clothing.

**Interviewer: [07:54]** Got you. Do you think this is related at all to any independence that he's gained, as he's become a little bit older?

**Interviewee:** I think so, I think so.

**Interviewer:** How so?

**Interviewee:** It’s like I said, I think he is more kind of cognizant about all his…what he needs and what he wants. And I think he is much more fully aware of, you know, the surroundings around him and all the environment and stuff like that. And as I said, I mean he likes to research stuff and read stuff. So, I think that's what it is.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, absolutely. I'm sure it helps him to advocate for himself too a little bit.

**Interviewee:** Mm-hmm, right.

**Interviewer:** And if…does this cause any anxiety for Lavon? Like if he isn't able to have the type of food he prefers or if he isn't able to wear the type of clothes he prefers?

**Interviewee:** The clothes, yes.

**Interviewer:** Yeah?

**Interviewee:** It causes a little bit of anxiety for him, yeah.

**Interviewer:** How does he cope with that anxiety? Or what does it look like maybe? **[crosstalk]**.

**Interviewee:** It's tough for me to explain processes to him because it doesn't really like…it will take me a while. I'm like a broken record for him to be explaining stuff for him, it's really like a process, you know. It will take me maybe a week or two, something like that, before he'll be able to get it. So that’s the type of thing, the processing itself is not there. I mean, I really have to explain things to him over and over and over again for him to finally be able to get it.

**Interviewer:** Do you mean that it takes a long time for him to realize he’s anxious and you have to help him through understanding that? Is that what you mean?

**Interviewee:** Correct, yes, yes.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Interviewee:** Pretty much, yes, yes.

**Interviewer:** And in order for him to kind of lower the anxiety a little bit I kind of have to help him, you know, explain stuff to him and you know, how the process goes or something like that. He’s *[a]* pretty easy kid, I should say. I mean, he is not, but he doesn't really express himself in a way, but I can easily see his facial expression and the way he is feeling. But actively he is not actually telling you what is actually internal…how he is internalizing himself, but I can see that the anxiety is in there. But at the same time…he does show it to me, but at the same time…kind of like coughing up.

**Interviewer:** Yeah **[laughs]**.

**Interviewee:** I mean, being his mother, I kind of know, you know, how he is feeling.

**Interviewer**: Yeah.

**Interviewee:** Even though he’s going to deny that he's feeling this, he’s feeling that. And in order to kind of lessen the anxiety a little bit, then I just have to explain, you know, some of the processes or something like that, but again, as I said, it’s tough. But he's not, you know…okay, he's just going to throw tantrums or anything like that, or just going to really get more upset or something. He is calm, you know, but it's…I can see that anxiety is in there, but I just need make sure that I explain things to him over and over again, a million times. And then before, hopefully the anxiety is going to lessen out a little bit in terms of particularstuff that he likes.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, sounds like he needs a lot of reassurance.

**Interviewee:** Yes, yes, absolutely.

**Interviewer:** And you mentioned this is mostly in particular to the clothes he wears, what about to food he eats?

**Interviewee:** No, I think he’s going to get used to more and more kind of like used to it or something like that, but he's not more about the food. But I think he's just…I think it's part of…he's just going to shrug his shoulders. Now that he’s gotten a lot older, he just says, “*oh well, okay, fine*.” But yeah, I think he's more about the clothing per se, I should say, not much more about the food or something, you know. The food he can just, okay, do some…look for some alternative or something like that and he is able to be able to satisfy himself. But I suppose with the clothing, I mean if he likes something in particular, he wouldn't be able to get it **[12:00]** because he researched the stuff and there's certain things that…there is a certain particular writing in there that he doesn't like, you know. Of course he really wanted it, but at the same time he saw something in there that he doesn't like, so it's kind of, you know, the anxiety a little bit in there just kind of presents itself or something. And it's hard, and then I know that he's been wanting to get the stuff, but at the same time he is kind of torn in between, I should say, you know, so he’s kind of saying to himself sometimes he couldn’t accept it. So, I just need to explain to him and reassure him that, *“okay, we will be able to look for more stuff that probably you might like, you know, you just need to move on.”* But you know, it's a process. It's slowly but surely, but just try to move on, you know.

**Interviewer:** Absolutely. Thank you for sharing that. How has this anxiety changed over time? Or has it not changed?

**Interviewee:** It hasn’t really…I mean, it's not as bad as it is anyway, so I can really kind of…it’s manageable, and tolerable in a way.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, absolutely.

**Interviewee:** It's just as I said, it's like a broken record, it’s just *a lot* of reassuring, *a lot* of explaining and everything like that, but… **[13:21 crosstalk]**.

**Interviewer:** And it's always been like that?

**Interviewee:** Mh-hmm, everything. Everything *[that]* he does and everything *[that]* he did wrong. I mean, you know, his thinking process is not the same as that of a typical teenager or something like that. You just have to explain things over and over to him.

**Interviewer:** Absolutely. And speaking more about…specifically about his sensory sensitivities, in this case to food and preferences for food and preferences for clothing, what goals and hopes do you have for Lavon, in those contexts?

**Interviewee:** I’m just hoping that as he gets a lot more older, he will be able to kind of outgrow it. Or even though he is not going to be able to outgrow it, he’s being able to like, let’s just say he is able to kind of cope with it, I should say. Be able to kind of be more…a little bit more creative in a way, you know, in finding an alternative way, you know.

**Interviewer:** Like finding other options **[crosstalk].**

**Interviewee:** Or options or something that like that, yes.

**Interviewer:** Well that makes complete sense, thank you. So, we’re going to shift gears slightly. As Lavon’s gotten a little bit older, how has his and your community reacted to his sensory sensitivities?

**Interviewee:** I mean, I would say he’s not…he doesn’t have a lot of friends, they*[think]* he is weird, you know, he's odd or something like that and yeah, he's not able to maintain a lot of friendships. I mean, he is very kind of socially isolating himself. So, I mean, he doesn't…so not a lot of people know him, I should say, personally.

**Interviewer: [15:20]** Yeah. Did this change, like when he was younger, did he have more of a community around him?

**Interviewee:** No, no, I don't know. And it's hard when people *[don’t]* know you and they judge you by your…how you behave yourself and *[don’t]* even know who you really are. I mean, it’s really tough.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, that does sound tough.

**Interviewee:** Especially when he was in middle school, it was very hard. It was very…it’s very tough for me seeing him struggling.

**Interviewer:** Struggling with loneliness or without friends?

**Interviewee:** Without friends, and then he actually himself, he says…he told me that, you know, he felt like he's a ghost in school.

**Interviewer:** Ohh, that's a heartbreaking.

**Interviewee:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** Oh, no. I'm so sorry. Also, if there are any questions you don't want to answer because they're upsetting, you do not have to, we can stop at any time. I don't want to upset you.

**Interviewee:** No, it’s fine, that’s fine, thank you.

**Interviewer:** No that’s…that must have been hard for you to hear. Thank you for sharing that and your honesty.

**Interviewee:** You’re welcome **[chuckles]**.

**Interviewer:** Please, if you don’t want to answer this, its ok **[crosstalk and both laughing].** No, I just don’t want to hurt you. What hopes or worries do you have for how his community will react in the future to him?

**Interviewee:** I think the more…what really worries me is more the social appropriateness.

**Interviewer:** How so?

**Interviewee:** You know, he used kind of …this is why he got himself into trouble to begin with **[sniffs]**. More like making some kind of sexual innuendos, like comments and stuff like that. I mean, he made a comment out of it, he doesn’t think about any sexual part of it, because I think he’s just thinking of it in a little way, I should say, but other people kind of misinterpret the way that he is saying it.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hmm.

**Interviewee:** So, this is the thing that kind of…that’s why he is in a school right now that deals with more you know, behavior modification for the kids or something like that. He's not in a regular high school. This is the thing that really kind of worries me most.

**Interviewer:** Like people misunderstanding what he is saying or what he means.

**Interviewee:** Yeah, yeah. Especially right now, I mean, he is 16 and he is going to turn 18 and of course, you know, if he says something like really sexually inappropriate or something like that, he doesn’t really mean it for himself, he thought he’s just making a comment. Of course, for other people right now, especially the world we live in right now, it’s hard, you know. And I’m afraid he is going to be accused of sexual harassment or something like that.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, it must be very scary for you.

**Interviewee:** That’s something that really up to this day and time it really worries me.

**Interviewer:** No absolutely, that sounds very real and very scary. Shifting a little bit again, in the transition to adulthood as a concept, where do you see Lavon?

**Interviewee:** Honestly, I'm not a hundred percent sure at this point. I mean, he’s a very smart kid, he loves *[being]* hands on. He is very technical, he kind of like, you know, he likes to tinker stuff, especially the bikes and you know. So…and he likes to…as I said, he likes to research stuff. I don’t see any problem with him being successful in that way, you know, school wise and everything like that. But at the same time, that can a little a bit of a backburner in between because of the inappropriate **[19:19 inaudible]**. Hopefully he'll be able to realize for himself that what he said is not right, or you need to think first before saying stuff.That's a good thing that the school has been trying to work on him before he'll be able to transition back to a regular high school.

**Interviewer:** Yes, so it’s some kind of like focusing on some kind of social skills before focusing on these vocational skills. And at what stage or what types of independent skills does Lavon have?

**Interviewee:** Sorry, in what sense?

**Interviewer:** Like, does he want to live on his own? I mean, I know he's 16 and lives with you now, you know. He has the job you mentioned or I saw in your form. Does he manage some money to a degree? Does he cook, clean up after himself? Take care of his body? Can he take public transport? Things like that.

**Interviewee:** I don’t trust him with the public transportation.

**Interviewer:** Fair **[laughing]**.

**Interviewee:** Not at all. That’s the thing, he gets frazzled and confused easily.

**Interviewer:** Okay, no, that's super fair. What about money? Because I know he has a small job, he works like what, four hours a week?

**Interviewee:** He is pretty good about his money. He’s very good about it. Yeah, I mean, you know, he knows how to handle it and everything like that, yeah.

**Interviewer:** That’s awesome, that’s really great. What about cooking? Can he do that for himself?

**Interviewee:** Oh yeah, my god! He’s self-sufficient, he loves to cook **[laughs]**.

**Interviewer:** That’s great! What does he cook?

**Interviewee:** Anything that he can be creative with, he goes to YouTube…oh that’s another thing, okay. So, he goes to YouTube, looks for ingredients and then whatever ingredients *[are]* in a particular recipe, we have to have it. There is no modification, no nothing.

**Interviewer:** Got you.

**Interviewee:** That’s another thing. There’s another…this one time that, you know, he found this recipe on YouTube, and he said, *“Mama, I want to try this,”* I said okay. So, he listed all the ingredients, and it took us hours or maybe an hour inside the grocery store, he was looking for *every single thing*. And I said *“Lavon, can we just kind of modify it, you know, kind of revise some of the stuff?”* He said, *“nope, nope, nope!”* He has to have *all* the stuff, *every single* ingredient. That’s another thing, he has to have all the ingredients. It was hard, I was so tired with him. We had to go to another store to look for the other ingredients. Oh my god! It was like we have a grocery trip that day, because we had to look for all the ingredients that he saw on YouTube. He has to have all of **[22:14 the ingredients]**.

**Interviewer:** Got you. No, that makes sense. And thinking about his future, what types of independent skills do you think Lavon will be able to acquire and begin…like, continue to achieve?

**Interviewee:** I think he'll be able to kind of manage himself on his own. But again, as I said, there’s a little part of me that kind of worries about…he's still doing all this kind of sexual inappropriateness, *[socially]* kind of inappropriate and stuff like that, you know. I think that’s kind of…I think he will be able to do it, but at the same time part of me that…he still *[has]* this tendency to just make the socially inappropriate comments or something.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, that makes sense.

**Interviewee:** That will probably get him into trouble.

**Interviewer:** For sure. Maybe specifically to that, or not, but what do you think will help him move into adulthood and continue to move into independence? Like are there particular services? Particular interventions?

**Interviewee:** I think more like social skills. Definitely, you know, he has to do that. Definitely he needs more kind of behavior modification, I would think. He’s seeing a psychologist right now, but I don’t think it seems to be helping him that much. But, I think that’s the thing that I have to look on, moving forward. I’ll just make sure that he still *[has]* the social skills and behavior modification therapy for him or something. So, hopefully he will be able to make a decision, in a good way, in adulthood.

**Interviewer: [24:12]** For sure. And now, putting these two things together – the sensory sensitivities and this transition to adulthood, how do those two things intersect for Lavon?

**Interviewee:** In terms of…?

**Interviewer:** In terms of anything, as he …you know, so for example, you mentioned that as he's getting older, he's able to have more self-awareness to articulate what his preferences are. How else do they intersect for him? You know, like maybe with purchasing clothes or maybe with his money that he's acquiring through his job, like that maybe?

**Interviewee:** Okay, I think we’d be ok in that particular area, you know. I just need…as I said, I think he just needs a lot of reminders and assurances.

**Interviewer:** Reminders in what way?

**Interviewee:** Like things might not go as planned for him.

**Interviewer:** Yeah and reassure him in that way **[crosstalk].**

**Interviewee:** I just need to kind of reassure him in *[those]* terms if things didn't go as planned. Maybe he should do some kind of plan B, maybe to be able to modify it into something, as opposed to *[being]* very rigid about, *“okay, this is what I need and this is what I want,”* like break it or something, you know.

**Interviewer:** And how do you see his sensory interests? Do you see them as an obstacle or a vehicle to his independence?

**Interviewee:** Maybe vehicle, I think. He was like a…as I said, he is more aware of all these things, in a way he knows he does have the sensory sensitivities, you know. So, I think it is going to be like a vehicle. And he kind of says what he feels about it anyway, so I don’t think it’s going to be an issue later on or moving forward.

**Interviewer: [26:05]** Yeah, that’s great, that makes sense. Do you anticipate any parts of it being challenging for Lavon, as he does gain independence?

**Interviewee:** I think maintaining a relationship, that can be a little bit challenging.

**Interviewer:** In what way?

**Interviewee:** Especially with friends, it could be a love relationship or something like that or within the community or within the school, everything.

**Interviewer:** So, you think as he gets older, it will be hard for him to maintain those?

**Interviewee:** I mean, I’m seeing it that way but I’m hoping not. Let’s just put it that way, you know. I think that’s why I said, as he grows, I think he needs more…still needs the social skills and more of this behavior modification. **[Crosstalk]** stuck to him **[chuckles].**

**Interviewer:** Yeah, that's a great…that's a great segue. So, you mentioned you think behavior modification, and you mentioned social skills could help him, you know, with this transition in regards to his sensory sensitivities, maybe also has rigidity a little bit. But do you…in your mind, are there current…are there gaps in the available interventions right now? Like do you think there's something missing?

**Interviewee:** There are gaps **[crosstalk].**

**Interviewer:** Oh, sorry.

**Interviewee:** Right now, because of the…

**Interviewer:** Pandemic **[chuckles]**?

**Interviewee:** …current situation we're in right now, there’s clearly gaps. But right before these things happened, I don't think there’s any gaps at all or anything like that, no.

**Interviewer:** Oh, that’s awesome! I'm glad you feel that way. I’m glad you feel like there are things that you need, that's awesome. And thinking again about sensory interests and thinking…is there something behind you that you need?

**Interviewee:** No, no.

**Interviewer:** Okay cool.

**Interviewee:** I'm hearing something in the… **[27:58 laughs]**.

**Interviewer:** Oh, no worries, no worries. So, thinking again about Lavon's like sensory interests and also, thinking again about his transition to adulthood, how do his sensory interests impact your hopes and goals and expectations for his transition into adulthood?

**Interviewee:** I don’t think it’s going to be impacting a lot though.

**Interviewer:** Why not?

**Interviewee:** As I said he’s more…because he is very cognizant about you know, what he needs. He's fully aware that he does have these issues with him. And I think he's been able to adapt and cope with it in a way and be able to **[28:40 inaudible]** you know.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Interviewee:** As I said, he just needs a lot of like reassurance or reminders that certain things might not go as planned or something like that, but things will be okay.

**Interviewer:** Awesome! I'm so glad you feel that way,that’s really good. So, I have one last set of questions because it's like five parts. So, kind of taking a big picture look. As a mom, as a caregiver, as a parent of a child with ASD and sensory interests. What does transitioning to adulthood mean to you?

**Interviewee:** It's scary **[both laughing]**.

**Interviewer:** Tell me more, why is it scary?

**Interviewee:** Because he's the type of kid that needs a lot of guidance. As I said earlier, I think he'll be okay in terms of being able to manage himself, you know, on his own. But at the same time, again, as I said, there's still a part of him about being socially inappropriate and stuff like that, so definitely he needs a lot of guidance and you know, reminders and reassurances and all those things. But, that’s the thing that kind of worries me, but other parts, I think he’ll be able to manage it on his own, you know.

**Interviewer: [30:00]** Absolutely! That's good. I'm glad that you're hopeful for him, and has this changed over time as he's gotten older?

**Interviewee:** You mean the sensitivities and all, no?

**Interviewer:** No, oh sorry. No, I mean your…what transition to adulthood means to you. You said it means something scary and worrisome, has that changed over time?

**Interviewee:** No, no, I mean as a parent actually, we’re always worried about our kids, regardless, so **[both laugh].**

**Interviewer:** Yep! My mom says that too.

**Interviewee:** Yeah, so…but for him in particular, I mean, as much as I worry about all my kids, but he worries me most, in terms of you know, as I said about all this, maintaining relationships and everything, the community and his friendships and everything like that.

**Interviewer:** Absolutely.

**Interviewee:** But other than that, I know he will be able to manage that on his own.

**Interviewer:** That’s good. And what do you see happening in Lavon's future?

**Interviewee:** I just hope with everything, he will be successful. I just hope that, you know, the behavior will not interfere. That’s the only thing, that’s the main concern. I just hope later on, later on in life he really will be able to kind of outgrow it and be able to kind of *to learn* how to stop, when to stop saying, you know.

**Interviewer:** Absolutely. Do you think he'll be able to move out, be independent in that way?

**Interviewee:** **[31:52 inaudible]** No.

**Interviewer:** No?

**Interviewee:** Not at the moment, yeah. Mm-mm.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, no, absolutely. And then…and this may not be relevant – again, I have to ask the question, so I apologize if it's not super relevant for your family. Did Lavon’s sensory interests and sensitivities impact your perspective on what it means to transition to adulthood?

**Interviewee:** Yes, in a way. But I think you should just put trust you know, in your kids.

**Interviewer:** So, you said a little bit. What do you mean by that?

**Interviewee:** Seeing him, as he got a lot older, I could see that he is able to manage the differences, in a way. So, I think I just need a lot to put a lot more trust in that, that he will be able to do it, and manage on his own later on, and moving forward.

**Interviewer: [32:59]** I mean, it sounds like he's come far in being able to articulatehis needs, and that…that's kind of life, you know.

**Interviewee:** Right, right.

**Interviewer:** You have to articulate what you need to get what you want. So that's fantastic! You know, it's hard for anyone to do sometimes **[both chuckle].** So that's actually it for all of my formal questions. Do you have to have anything else that you'd like to add, any other thoughts you'd like to share?

**Interviewee:** No, I mean, he’s pretty good. I mean, you know, as I said, he likes to tinker bikes and everything, but got into *[an]* accident three weeks ago.

**Interviewer:** Is he okay?

**Interviewee:** And then, he likes to volunteer.

**Interviewer:** What does he do for volunteering? **[crosstalk]**

**Interviewee:** He’s ok right now, thank you. He got hit by a **[33:41 inaudible].**

**Interviewer:** By a what?

**Interviewee:** He loves any cancer events, the autism awareness, and also the mental health awareness. We do a lot of volunteering, but of course right now, with the pandemic that’s going on everything just stopped, we aren’t able to do anything.

**Interviewer:** Well, that's amazing! That's so good. What does he do at those events when he volunteers?

**Interviewee:** Anything that they ask us to do, like any particular task, you know, like serving food and all these things or kind of helping out in a way, yeah. He had a very…personal favorites, I should say, with organizations. But he likes to *go* *[to]* these things, this is one of his passions.

**Interviewer:** Oh, that’s lovely! That’s so great. That warms my heart, that's great. That sounds lovely! Is there anything else that you'd like to add?

**Interviewee:** No, I’m good, thank you **[laughs].**

**Interviewer:** Cool. Thank you so much for sharing your time and your thoughts and your experiences, this has been so valuable. We appreciate you so much and thank you for being vulnerable and honest with me, too **[34:55]**. I appreciate it.

**Interviewee:** No problem **[laughs].**

**Interviewer:** Before I let you go, I have one last question, I kind of lied, but do you know any other parents or caregivers who might be interested in participating?

**Interviewee:** No, I don’t, I’m sorry.

**Interviewer:** No, don’t worry about it, not one problem. You know, we’re asking everyone.

**Interviewee:** It’s ok.

**Interviewer:** Thank you again. I so appreciate your time and your **[35:24 inaudible]**

**Interviewee:** No problem.

**Interviewer:** Lovely! So, I ordered a gift card for you for…as a thank you. It's on its way, as soon as it arrives and the order’s been processed, I will send it your way as a formal thank you. But thank you very much on behalf of our whole lab.

**Interviewee:** You're welcome. Thank you.

**Interviewer:** If you have any questions for me, let me know.

**Interviewee:** Sure, I will. Thank you. Bye.

**Interviewer:** Have a lovely day. Bye.

**Interviewee:** You too. Bye.

**[End of transcript]**