

James's story

"James was diagnosed with Asperger's at 9 years old after a difficult time at primary school, where he was constantly goaded by other children into doing things that got him into bother with his teacher.

I was told that it was "his behaviour and lack of respect when being told what to do" that was the problem, but I knew the main problem in this school wasn't his.

After much soul searching, I moved him to another school where I'd seen first hand how they dealt with children who were more "challenging". Within weeks James was a settled, happy boy making progress and being observed by a multi-agency group of experts in child behaviours.

Since then, James has grown into an amazing young man of whom I'm so proud. He has embraced his quirks, and his alternative views of things often makes me think about how I go through my days. I never want him to be held back by his so-called hidden disability, I want him to continue his journey with inspiring experiences along the way and show everyone he meets his beautiful soul.

To send him on this trip to Tanzania would give him amazing memories of making friends, building communities, and helping other children into education; something that will be in his heart forever.

As a single parent, I hope that he inspires others, both with and without Asperger's, never to be held back by what others see as limitations, but to embrace the challenges ahead with grace and positivity."

Vicky Green January 2019

James with SimplyAlpaca's Eddie, who also came with a label -"Naughty"

