

I Watch My Son at a Distance

*Selected from the collection
"The Mommy Monologues"*

By Sharon Dunn

Cast: 1 w

Length: 2 pages of dialogue (640 words)

Performance time: About 3 minutes

The Story

A mother confides her fears over her son, who is challenged in some way. Will he find friends? Will he make it through school? All parents want their child to grow up to be someone special. She prays she will see her son as God intended him to be and not try to make him into what she thinks he should be.

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I WATCH MY SON AT A DISTANCE

I've been standing here for ten minutes watching my son on the playground. (*Looks out into the audience as though it is the playground.*) He can't see me back here. It's been a hard week for me. I've had special meetings with his teacher and other people. All experts and specialists around a table and one little tiny mom, me. They're concerned about him. He's not talking like he should be, not interacting with the other kids. All he's done since I've been watching him is sit on the swing and stare at the ground. I want to run out there. I want to help him. I want to tell the other children, "Hey, play with my son. He's a great little guy."

I don't know what all their tests mean. They don't know what all their tests mean. Maybe he's just a little behind socially and he'll catch up, or maybe it's an indication of some severe problem. They haven't given me a prognosis yet and said what the problem is. I live in fear of hearing one of those scary words: autism, retardation, brain damage, ADD, behavioral problems.

I think every parent faces this sooner or later. You realize your son isn't going to be the big football star you dreamed of him being. He's not going to be head of a corporation or an astronaut. Or your daughter isn't going to be Miss America or a ballerina or the first woman president. Sooner or later, every parent faces that in a big or small way. I think sooner is better than later. 'Cause being President or Miss America are our dreams for them. Maybe they're the things we wanted to do and couldn't achieve. I see parents do it with their kids all the time. Little eight-month-old Johnny catches a ball that's rolled to him and his father runs around the house yelling, "He'll play for the NFL. He'll play for the NFL."

The point is, all those ideas about their futures are what we put on our children, what we try to shape them into, and the sooner we realize that little Johnny hates football and that Susie doesn't want to be a pageant queen, the sooner the child has to nurture the gifts, personality traits, and talents God gave

End of Freeview

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