If I have one passion, that passion would have to be autism. Or to be more specific the autistic population. Up until about three years ago I didn’t know much about the subject nor had it sparked my interest in any way. That all changed when I met Joey, who at the time was about three years old and had recently been diagnosed so his family was still getting used to the idea and daily routine changes that needed to be made. I definitely noticed he was a bit different but didn’t think much of it because he was so young and when I found out it didn’t make much of a difference to me. To be honest I didn’t really know much about what being autistic meant. Shortly after he became a part of my life I began my own research and got a

From that point on Joey has been a big part of my life and I’ve definitely made a connection with him. He’s now five years old with a birthday coming up and from just experiences with him in every day situations I have learned so much about his challenges and his gifts. On top of the experiences I have with him I have done loads of research and have just recently finished The Way I See It written by Temple Grandin. Grandin is a severely autistic person herself and writes about autism from her point of view. She shares her own research and experiences which have now lead me to better understand the inner workings of the autistic mind. I’m now currently reading Thinking In Pictures also written by Temple Grandin and I have a long list of books that she has referenced to that I plan to read.

I’ve learned that yes, having autism is hard and makes every day tasks and social interactions a challenge for the autistic but it isn’t all bad. Our world would be missing a lot if they didn’t exist because they are truly amazing people. All this interest started off as just something I liked learning about but over time I have discovered that it’s something that I never want to stop learning about. I can’t even imagine my life without Joseph and all I want is to be able to interact and be able to help and be helped by people with this diagnosis. This is my passion and I plan to keep it a part of my life after college and in my career.