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UA37/2 Autism Isn't Coronavirus

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Autism Isn't Coronavirus

First of all, scientists won't find a vaccine for autism. And do I have to say it? No vaccine will give your child autism. Second, if you don't wash your hands while singing "The Alphabet Song" after coming within six feet of my son, don't worry: you won't suddenly start flapping your arms.

People have practiced social distancing around him his whole life. Six feet apart, ha! One neighbor asked his brothers to come play with her kids, said not to send him along, and told her kids *something's wrong with him*.

His Sunday School teacher quarantined him. That is, she left him in a separate room and gave him a vacuum cleaner to play with while she taught the other kids a lesson. (What lesson?) Don't be like that. Be like Big Bird, who pays attention to Julia's paintings and bouquets.

Average age of people who die from coronavirus: 79.
Chief cause of death: imbalance in immune system.
Average life expectancy for people with autism: 36.
Chief cause of death: suicide.

Yesterday's headline: *Coronavirus Could Destroy Millions of US Jobs, Economists Fear.*
Not deemed newsworthy: *Jobless Rate Among Autistic Adults Hovers At 91%.*

Once a preacher shouted *Hellfire* at a homeless alcoholic who said *Find some other way to scare me. I've been in Hell for a long time.*
In other words, the calmest soldiers are those who have been in battle before.

In other words my son has the most level head on Facebook right now. Scrolling: *contact tracing hydroxychlorine CDC WHO canceled canceled stay inside bail out the airlines, who's got toilet paper?*
My son's timeline: *Isaac Rochell stands 6 feet 4 inches tall. Isaac Rochell weighs 280lbs. Number 98. Position defensive end.*
His current hobby: listing these stats on every player in the NFL.

An autistic brain has 400% more resting activity than the average brain. Notice that light at the grocery store, how it hits a cereal box

at such an angle that the brand of the cereal
becomes the focal point of the whole world?
Tonight my son noticed that, noticed the way
the bars on the grocery cart sent tingles into
his fingers, and he became overloaded,
turned to the surprised clerk, said *You don't
mess with me! I'm a really strong dude!
I don't have to take this crap from you!*

In *Look Me In The Eye*, John Elder Robison
wrote that 99% of the world's problems don't
require an autistic brain, and 1% do.
Let's ask people on the spectrum
how to manage social distancing
and how to keep our minds focused
on quirky things, anything but the news.
Let's find some autistic epidemiologists.
Let's say *Please don't wash your hands of us now.*