



Max an 8 year old youngster in second grade, takes Karate lessons, reading classes to improve his reading speed, socialization classes and has three close friends whom he has known since Kindergarten. Max learned to swim at age five and enjoys jumping off of the 14 foot diving board. Max is a natural leader and besides being a perfectionist, he is determined and disciplined.all of this could be over-the-top for a child of his age, but for Max all of these attributes were attained after being diagnosed with Autism at the age of 32

months and the beginning of many therapies. Those therapies consisted of two years of 1:1 Speech and language services, in-home therapy (ABA) for four years, classes in gymnastics for more than 3 years, play dates at home at least weekly since age four, and many hours of perseverance for him to be able to bathe his self, eat independently, become proficient in managing the television and be in any room in the house, with much resourcefulness. The majority of his playtime is shared with his brother Chris who is six, and has his own individual personality and interests. Chris is in Kindergarten, his reading skills are at the first grade level; he takes gymnastics twice a week. Chris always wants to know where his mother is and has many challenges in doing things independently, but always surprises us with a new phrase. Chris was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 18 months. He has 40 hours of weekly, in-home therapy (ABA). Chris loves strong tastes and has no problem in trying new foods; he likes to swim and dive deep, up to 7 feet without a problem, and is very proud when he emerges alive!! Chris no longer leaves bite marks on his hands, nor hits anyone who asks him for, or touches his belongings; he no longer runs out into the street because he is fearful. We have walked a long road and I now have confidence that the future will be better if today we do the best that we can.



These are my boys who always make me extremely happy. Maribel Hernandez.



Max y Chris Rivera with their friend Ricardo.