

You Know You Have a Child With Special Needs When YOU . . .

- compare emergency room's instead of grocery stores;
- view toys as "therapy";
- don't take a new day for granted;
- teach your child HOW to pull things out of the cupboard, OFF the bookcases, and that feeding the dog from the table is fun;
- see everything is an educational opportunity instead of just having plain old fun;
- cheer instead of scold when they blow bubbles in their juice while sitting at the dinner table (that's speech therapy), smear ketchup all over their high chair (that's OT), or throw their toys (that's PT);
- don't mind if your child goes through the house tooting a tin whistle;
- have fired at least 3 pediatricians and can teach your family doctor a thing or two;
- can name at least 3 genes on chromosome 21. (You really know your toast if you can spell the full names correctly);
- have been told you are "in denial" by at least 3 professionals;
- have that incredible sinking feeling that you've forgotten SOMETHING on those few days that you don't have some sort of appointment somewhere!
- realize your vocabulary consists of all the letters OT, PT, SP, RT, IFSP, IEP, etc.;
- keep your appointment at the specialist even though a tropical storm is raging because you just want to get this one over with.....you just waited 8 months to get it...and besides, no one else will be there!;
- tell your other kids to do something and they actually do it because it is an emergency;
- have completed potty training and take out a full-page public notice in the Washington Post
- pack a medicine bag instead of a diaper bag or your purse;
- are recognized by name by Doctors/Specialist/Hospitals etc. without referring to your child's chart,
- keep a daily growth chart (or seizure chart!!!);
- can identify your child's medical file because of its enormous size and know that it is still growing;
- find out that your child's doctor has speed dial programmed for your home phone;
- have a new belief . . . that angels live with us on earth.