



## **SENSORY SHOWTIME**

### **An Awareness Weekend**

#### **Film Fact Sheet**

##### **Film Synopsis**

“Autistic-Like: Graham’s Story” intimately traces the path one family chooses when they hear their 17-month-old son is “autistic-like.”

Handed the fuzzy diagnosis, Erik and Jennie Linthorst begin to notice their son’s treatment isn’t really on target, either. But since Graham is not classically autistic, his parents have no idea what the problem is or what treatment to look for beyond what is conventionally prescribed.

For Erik Linthorst, the diagnosis launches a personal quest to find the right treatments for his son. For more than a year, Erik’s research and determination drives the family’s search for the right therapists, the right doctors, even the right words to describe Graham.

Soon after he starts searching, Erik begins wondering how other families in the same situation are faring. What does it mean, “autistic-like”? And how should or could these parents help their kids? What Erik learns is what more families need to know: Every child with autism has sensory processing issues; not every child with sensory issues has autism.

“Autistic-Like: Graham’s Story” illuminates the medical, social and public health issues surrounding the conundrum faced by families whose autistic-like children have no clear diagnosis and are offered no specific treatment.

##### **Praise for the Film**

“A gem. A brilliant reminder that by watching closely and looking for what works, parents can find the right help for their child.” - Carol Kranowitz, author of *The Out-of-Sync Child*

“Every developmental pediatrician, every pediatric neurologist, every parent of a child with special needs, every teacher, and every occupational, physical, and speech therapist should see this film. “Autistic-Like” describes so many children we know and care about, and it reminds us to not only think outside the box but to put the box aside altogether.” - Lindsey Biel, co-author of *Raising a Sensory-Smart Child*

“Your story should be seen by all families beginning their therapy journey and I suppose even those who are still in the dance. My hope is to bring this model to Nebraska someday and share its power to those families in need, and there are plenty in need.” - Larry Zier, Creighton University