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ENABLING TAVE TO LIVE HIS LIFE LIKE A TYPICAL SIX YEAR OLD

Margaret River local, six year old Tave James, who has a diagnosis of Autism, is now able to participate in sport and interact socially with friends, thanks to Senses Australia's therapy team in the Lower South West and the support of his family.

Senses Australia, a registered NDIS provider, provides occupational therapy and speech pathology to Tave. Together, with his mum and dad, strategies and supports are used to enable Tave to achieve his goals.

Callum Johnson, Senses Australia's Senior Occupational Therapist says he works together with Tave and his family to enable him to take part in activities that are meaningful to him, helping ensure Tave lives his life like a typical six year old.

"Tave is a happy and energetic boy. It's important for Tave's mum and dad that Tave feels he is part of his community and has the opportunity to be a kid and participate in activities just like other children his age.

"Rose Taylor, a Senses Australia Speech Pathologist and I have been working with Tave and his family, to ensure Tave is equipped for different social situations. With different supports and strategies, such as prompt cards, Tave knows what to expect and he knows what's coming up next. This has significantly helped to reduce the anxiety and stress Tave was experiencing," says Callum.

Tave's mum, Jade, says thanks to the support of Senses Australia, she feels Tave responds well to different situations and with the help of the prompt cards, he can prepare himself mentally to help stay calm and focused.

"The support we receive from Senses Australia, Callum and Rose is amazing. They have gone above and beyond in helping Tave and supporting him to achieve his goals. Callum also supports Tave's social worker, who assists him at his activities.

"Tave has been a part of the junior cricket program, which he started last term thanks to the support of Callum. He is now also taking part in Ninja Kids, a local fitness program especially for children his age. Just last year, Tave had his very first play date and Senses Australia ensured we had the skills to prepare ourselves and the other family. It's been wonderful, it's given Tave the opportunity to be a kid and be out there," says Jade.

Senses Australia is one of Australia's leading not for profit organisations that provides world class disability services to the Western Australian community and has done so for more than 120 years. Everyday Senses Australia supports over 650 children and adults of all ages with a wide range of disabilities to reach their full potential. To find out more about Senses Australia's services in the Lower South West visit www.senses.org.au or call Senses Australia on 1300 111 881.

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