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Kids On The Move Hosts Photo Session Fundraiser for Autism Awareness Month

OREM, UT — April 19, 2017 — Kids On The Move (KOTM), This month Kids On The Move (KOTM,) in collaboration with Rio Ochoa Photography, will hold a photo session for children and families to raise money for KOTM's Autism Center. The fundraiser will support the mission of Autism Awareness Month and raise money for programs that help families with children on the spectrum.

The Catletts, one of the families Ochoa photographed, had a tender moment during their photo session. Aaden Catlett, a 9-year-old boy with Pervasive Developmental Disorder usually has trouble expressing emotion. However, during the photo shoot, Aaden insisted on a picture with his dad, explaining that his dad is his number one hero.

Aaden's condition makes it hard for him to keep up with things like reading, writing and emotional expression. However, over the last four years since Aaden has attended the KOTM Autism Center, he's steadily progressed in all of these areas. While he sometimes struggles with aggression, his therapists noted that last summer he started to show massive improvement.

"He can recover so much quicker now and episodes are way less frequent," said one of Aaden's past KOTM consultants, Ashley Roll.

Roll has loved being a part of Aaden's progression, watching as he has grown and learning about his strengths. Aaden soars in his motor skills and verbal usage—talking very comfortably with the therapists at KOTM. Roll said that he frequently educates her on things that he's interested in—especially Star Wars.

Roll also noted that Aaden has a particular soft spot when it comes to the younger KOTM children. He is very patient with them, even when they unknowingly knock over one of his lego towers he worked so hard on.

Aaden is also affectionate with his family members, but the experience he had at Ochoa's photography shoot was a special one.

"It's not a behavior we would see often," said Roll, referring to Aaden's hug with his dad, "However, since being at KOTM those moments are becoming more frequent."

This type of progression is commonly seen in all of the children at KOTM's Autism Center. The center uses Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) techniques to increase the rate at which children with autism progress. They even facilitate in-class social groups for children to learn social skills through games like musical chairs.

Fifty percent of the proceeds from Ochoa's photo shoot will go back to this Autism Center at KOTM. It is open to all families, whether the child has a disability or not.

Families can call 801.221.9930 to schedule a photo session. Sessions cost 90 dollars for a 20 minute session, but if this article is mentioned parents can receive \$15 off. Additional custom artwork is available upon request. Families wanting to participate are invited to dress to impress. If superhero pictures are desired, families should bring any superhero capes, toys, costumes or shirts for their child to change into.

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Kids On The Move, Inc.

Kids On The Move, Inc. (KOTM) is a nonprofit organization located in Orem, UT. KOTM supports the development of young children and families by "empowering families, one kid at a time." KOTM is the local, proven expert in child development and family resources with four main programs: Early Intervention, Early Head Start, KOTM's Autism Center and Respite Care. For more information about Kids On The Move, please visit www.kotm.org, or call 801.221.9930.