

Is He a Little Man?

Debbie Wiederhold, TxP2P Staff

So what do you do with the stares, comments, etc. from people as you go out in to the community/world with your child who just happens to look different? Do you take a moment and politely educate the uneducated? Or do you give them a "look" and walk away with disgust in your eyes? What is the right message? Some days you just want to stay home — it's just easier to do that than explain or not explain, the whole time protecting your child.

I've seen the stares, heard the comments and tried to make a difference when I can — mainly for my child, but also for the others that come after us.

We were recently out of town for two days of doctor appointments for my son. We saw the stares, etc. but kept doing what we needed to do. After checking in for an appointment the second day, we're sitting off to the side and a young boy came running over to us — with me already cringing, thinking "how do I handle this stare or comment" and then he looked at me with a big grin on his face and said "Is he a Little Man?" I just smiled at the little boy and said "Why YES he is!" and then he ran off to his Mom who was checking him in for his appointment.

That day, even with the other stares and comments, was a good day – someone, even if it was a little boy, had seen my son for who he is.

Texas Parent to Parent