

Putting feelings into words

By TAN ZI XIANG

THE 30-page booklet started as a family project to help a boy express his feelings through writing.

Diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome – a mild form of autism – from the age of nine, Ray Lim Wensong, now 12, has always had difficulties interacting with people.

So Ray's mother, Madam Joni Tan Lay Lay, a full-time homemaker, 40, gave him an assignment – to put into words what happens at home and in school.

She explained that Ray, who was in Pei Hwa Presbyterian Primary School up until last year and is now in Pathlight School, usually does not share his experiences verbally.

"Sometimes, he would get bruises or have staples in his hair," she said. "But he does not like to talk about the incidents as he says it's painful."



PHOTOS NURIA LING,
COURTESY OF RAY LIM WENSONG

Ray Lim, 12, is the author of *Diary Of An Asperger Syndrome Ant*.

His "homework" has now been compiled in the form of a book titled *Diary Of An Asperger Syndrome Ant* – this week's Big Talent spotlight.

In the booklet, Ray shares his thoughts on everything under the sun, from his opinions of his relatives to deeply personal experiences

like the death of his grandfather or being bullied.

Ray gave out printouts of the booklet to his cousins to help other children understand what people with Asperger's syndrome go through.

Ray has hopes of continuing his writing dreams. "I want to write a sequel," he said.



Written by: Ray Lim Wensong

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The wall was 18.5 meters tall and everyone had to repel down with all the safety gadgets fastened on us. I imagined myself as "Spiderman" and walk down the obstacles with gusto. My classmates were rubbish at it and ended up kissing the wall rather than repelling down with style.

My classmates scored on the "Charlie Chaplin" as they could walk upside down on the ceiling while I ended up swimming in the water.

Tonight, we put on a BIG show for all the parents in front of a bon-fire. Our class basically was repeating every songs our trainer had taught us over the past 2 days.

The window
The window
The 52nd window



After the show, we had a HUGE parent-child reunion. I cried like a baby when I laid my eyes on mum. Some of my male classmates tried to reassure mum that they will look after me. One of them told me to make it less embarrassing for my mum, but that made it even MORE embarrassing. In the end, mum left me in the camp saying that I am able to go through it. I cried uncontrollably in my sleep OOH...OOH...OOH. So embarrassing! But I missed mum.

WHAT'S
YOUR TALENT?

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