

# #ThinkABILITY

PAM DARBY

Hi, I am Pammara and I'd like to introduce you to my little family John and John Emmett, aka JD, and we are the Darby's.

John and I met at Abbeville High where we both attended school. He was the football and basketball manager. We started dating in 2008. We were high school sweethearts and then married in 2014. Currently, he is still the football and basketball manager at Abbeville High School.

My husband, John, has mild cognitive delays. JD, our son, is the newest member of our family. He was born prematurely at 4 pounds 4 ounces and is doing very well. He was the best birthday present I will ever receive as he and I share the same birthday. Also, my husband and I will be approaching our 3rd wedding anniversary on the 29th of March and its great!



*Favorite quote,  
"We walk by faith,  
not by sight"  
2 Corinthians 5:7*



I have Autism. After countless doctors' visits, several misdiagnoses, and failed medical treatments, I was finally diagnosed at the age of thirteen. I wasn't able to get the early intervention I needed because of this. So I enriched myself with music therapy, art, and in my later school years, I began writing. As I grew, I learned to cope with my autism by making videos about autism awareness.

Later on, I began speaking at community events about autism and how it affects me. At one of the events, I met a parent of a child with a disability who told me about Partners in Policymaking and how it helped her become a stronger advocate for her child. Partners in Policymaking teaches leadership skills to people with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. I decided I would attend Partners in honor of my late friend Jason Weill (JW).

I am proud to say that I graduated from Partners in Policymaking's Class of 2014 and today I serve on the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. I am glad I graduated from Partners and feel honored to carry on JW's legacy of being the next watchdog for disability rights.



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#Think**ABILITY** is a month long social media campaign to celebrate the accomplishments of individuals with disabilities. The campaign is coordinated by Families Helping Families of Jefferson and held annually during the month of **March**. Learn more about it at <http://fhfjefferson.org/whats-going-on/special-events/thinkability>

**Changing Lives. Every Day.**