



## Ethan's Project

Did you ever have to do a school project that wasn't your favorite? Ethan did! Like a lot of other kids with bipolar disorder, he doesn't like to write. But now at age 13, Ethan is a co-author! That's right. His mom tells the story of how they discovered that Ethan has bipolar disorder. For each chapter of the book, Ethan shares what he remembers and his perspective. He tells his readers how he felt about such things as school, getting along with others, doctor's visits and brain scans. Ethan

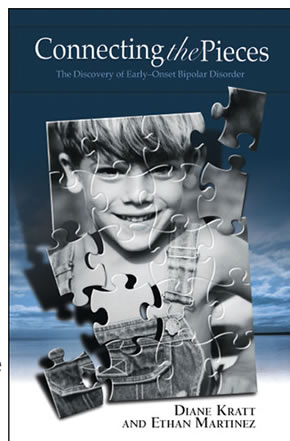
would rather be on the beach on his skim board but we are glad that he shared his thoughts. Here is a sample:

"I hope one day they have a cure for bipolar so that I won't have to take medicine and I can just be normal without it. I don't want surgery, but I would do it if it would fix my brain. Sometimes I worry that I won't be able to do everything that I need to as an adult. I know that drugs and alcohol are bad for everyone, but especially someone like me. I hope I don't use them."

Ethan, we are glad you had this school project! To Learn More About Ethan's book read the next article.

## Connecting the Pieces

Diane and Ethan, a mother and son team, document their journey which leads to the discovery that Ethan has bipolar disorder. As a teacher, this journey would make Diane question all of her previous assumptions about childhood behavior. With candor, Diane talks about her own self doubts and her efforts to find relief for her son. It is a journey that included wrong diagnosis, failed treatment trials and difficult parenting situations. But it is also a journey that included faith, patience and persistence. Eventually, answers for Diane and Ethan came through a SPECT scan. This brain imaging technique is debated in the world of psychiatry, but for Diane and Ethan, it proved to be an important piece of the puzzle. *Connecting the Pieces* serves as a cautionary tale to doctors and therapists who dismiss the diagnosis. It also serves as a beacon of light for others who are still trying to put the pieces of their puzzle together.



[Learn more about "Connecting the Pieces"](#)

[The Debate over SPECT Scans](#)

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## Featured Tip



Seth had a hard time learning his addition facts until he discovered a trick. Now he adds easily by using Roman Numerals! What a great brain. Seth says the Roman Numerals are easier for him to write too.

Have you discovered the way your brain likes to work? Don't be afraid to try new things.

[Email your tips to BPChildren](#)

## Quick Links



[Kid's Fun Pages](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[Parent's Page](#)

[Watch our presentation of "Pediatric Bipolar Disorder"](#)

## Teen Talk



Have you heard about flipswitch? It's the pod cast for teens with bipolar disorder! Tune in to hear straight talk for teens with co-hosts Lindsey and Chris who always keep it real. They explain confusing medical terms, discuss topics important to you and expose myths all in a fast paced fun presentation. Recent

topics on flipswitch include:

- denial
- sleep
- stigma
- suicide
- wellness
- depression
- mania

Listen in at <http://www.bpkids.org/flipswitch> and follow up with your comments at <http://www.bpkids.org/flipswitch/podcast>



## Media Coverage of Bipolar Disorder: A Teenager's Perspective

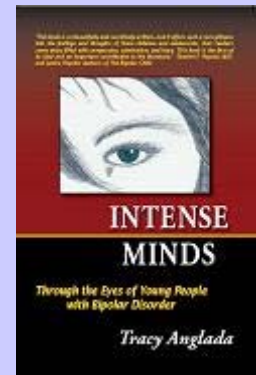
by Ciara age 16

Have you ever heard of bipolar disorder? Most people have. There has been intense media coverage lately from newspapers to news broadcasts. Unfortunately, the media is more concerned with putting out a good story rather than publishing the truth of the matter. The newspapers and news broadcasts have been harshly criticizing parents who have children with bipolar, jumping to conclusions about their parenting skills and accusing them of wrongdoing. But, I ask, what wrongdoing? Is it wrong to love your child so much that you want only the best for them? Is it wrong to care enough about your child's well being to seek help? Is it wrong to want your child to live a normal life? Every loving parent wants those same things for their own children whether your child has bipolar disorder or not.

[Read Full Text of Media Coverage of Bipolar Disorder: A Teenager's Perspective](#)

For BPChildren's stance on the media firestorm click the article below:

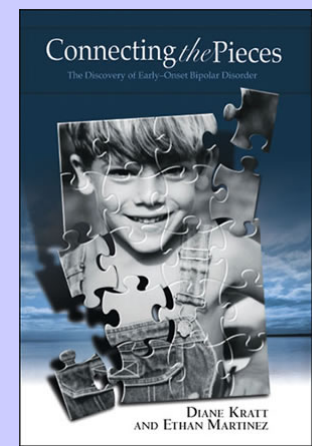
## Special Feature



October began with a special week of awareness for brain disorders including bipolar disorder. In recognition of this special awareness effort, we have been featuring Intense Minds at the reduced price of \$12.00. We will continue this promotional pricing through November 9th.

[To Order Click Here](#)

New Release



[Connecting the Pieces](#)  
by Diane Kratt and her son

[Prejudicial Treatment of Children and Families with Bipolar Disorder](#)



**Upcoming Events**

For those who live in South West Florida, come visit me at the Charlotte County NAMI meeting on Monday November 12th at 6:00 p.m. for a 45 minute presentation entitled "Helping Children with Bipolar Disorder Succeed."

[View Other Upcoming Events and Previous Events](#)

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Ethan Martinez

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[www.bpchildren.com](http://www.bpchildren.com)

email: [tracy@bpchildren.com](mailto:tracy@bpchildren.com)