

# Programme 22 – Emilia's Colours- Parenting and family life with a special needs child pt 1

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**Research and co-ordination:** Lisa Pirihi and Carolyn Jury

**Presenters:** Louise Ratcliffe

**Produced by** Louise Ratcliffe and FreeFM89.0

## Guests

### Ali Beasley

Ali Beasley lives in Nelson with her husband Keith and their two teenage children, George and Emilia. Emilia was diagnosed with autism at the age of seven, which had a profound impact on the whole family. Ali has recently written a book, Emilia's Colours, which shares the highs and lows of living with a child with a major disability in words that are frank, touching and ultimately hopeful.

Ali is an English graduate, with a background in residential social work with deaf adults in the UK, and has also worked as a Grant writer for Whenua Iti (an outward bound charity) in the Nelson region. She is a lover of the natural world (walking, yoga and Qigong) and also reading and poetry. Ali is a fierce advocate for disability issues, and in writing Emilia's Colours hopes to support other parents who may be struggling to cope with the unpredictable nature of life with an autistic child. She also aims to raise awareness and a better understanding of this 'invisible' disability.

## Programme Synopsis

- Ali tells Louise all about their family journey to Emilia's diagnosis and how it has impacted their lives

## Music

**True Colours by Cyndi Lauper**

**Rainbow Connection version by Gwen Stefanie**

## Links

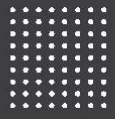
<http://www.alibeasley.com/>

[www.parent2parent.org.nz](http://www.parent2parent.org.nz)

<https://altogetherautism.org.nz/>

<http://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/>

<https://carematters.org.nz/> or 0508 236 236 freephone service for carers



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