

Untitled

By Melanie Aaron Pappas

A gentle touch, a warm embrace
A whisper of your kiss upon a face
The laughter dancing in your eyes
Always takes us by surprise
Each step forward stretches into a mile
With simple achievements, we share a smile
Hands outstretched, you reach for more
Never letting the world ignore
You make an impression on all you meet
Pushing the labels and boundaries to defeat
For years, together we've traveled this road
When the sticks and stones, others have slowed
You pitted your shoulder against the scruff
Showing you're made of better stuff
Words – not your primary communication
We've honed our skills in translation
Just when we thought the journey's done
You take on a new challenge, a 5k run
You applied strength in another matter
Forcing naysayers into silence, to scatter
The doors you've opened when you thought you couldn't
Have taken you where others wouldn't
Letting sunlight in to conquer fear
Moving us to quietly cheer
We watch you dance and twirl – and shout
Understanding the acting out
Knowing you, our lives have changed direction
We've learned a different type of affection
A varied language and vocabulary
That fills the gaps and makes us merry
You know we'll never change
Though outsiders might find it "strange"
The ongoing cycle of life we enjoy
No one can destroy
Through surreptitious looks and slights
Together, we'll look down from dizzying heights
Hold our hands
We're the ones who understand
Precisely
Perfectly.