

## BBU Video

### Video

Shots of three children interacting nicely  
DVE: Cube Turn upside down

Shots of same children acting out  
(Michael bites)  
(Brittany hits with magazine)  
(Billy bangs head)

VOSOT of Mrs. Garnet  
38:22:15 - 38:30:06  
"being mother...called the cops"

Michael solo shot 39:14:21

Mrs. Garnet  
38:22:15 - 45:45:02

Exterior shot of CSH  
LS of unit

Group of professionals consulting  
with each other

Observation room shot  
Special Ed class

VOSOT Lalli  
7:22:07 - 7:30:04  
"From there ... treatment  
development"

Lalli  
9:14:07 - 10:34:22

Michael hitting the cabinets and  
yelling. (40:27:21 - 40:50:10)

### Audio

The children in the Biobehavioral Unit can be a pleasure to interact with. Then, suddenly, everything can change.

These severe behavior problems of the autistic and mentally retarded child are health risks to anyone in the room. Parents don't know what causes the behavior or how to stop it, because the child is either non-verbal or completely unresponsive. They live in constant fear for the health of their child and themselves.

Mrs. Garnet could no longer control her son Michael, who is both blind and mentally retarded. Her body was covered with bruises from his uncontrollable behavior.

"Michael was physically abusive...  
indication it was going to happen"

She was desperate to control Michael's severe and dangerous behavior problems. The Biobehavioral Unit at Children's Seashore House was her last hope. Their interdisciplinary team examines the social, medical and behavioral aspects of the problem behavior. Then they develop a treatment tailored to meet the needs of each case. It's the only approach that works.

Dr. Joseph Lalli is a behavioral psychologist who managed Michael's case. He explains the comprehensive care these children need..

"There are four ...post discharge"

Michael responded violently to almost any request made of him. The team at Children's Seashore House observed the behavior for potential triggers, and tested their solutions. The only thing that was immediately clear was that this couldn't go on.

## BBU Video

### Video

Jackie in courtyard  
16:56:09

Jackie: 1:34:16 – 2:17:19

Michael tearing up napkins  
(35:19:27)

Jackie: 5:22:10 – 5:58:04

Michael making the bed  
(55:10:12)

Brittany with crayons  
(12:19:02)

Billy banging head on floor  
(15:16:08)

Brittany playing nicely  
(20:13:05)

### Audio

Jackie Brennan is one of Michael's teachers at the Overbrook School for the Blind. She remembers the effect Michael's behavior had on her and the other students.

"The worst episode...nothing we could do to help him."

"It's a scary thing to walk into a classroom...it was a scary thing."

The team at Children's Seashore House discovered that Michael was easily frustrated by complex tasks. The key was to give explicit instructions and to allow him frequent breaks. During this treatment session Michael makes his bed without any sign of the hostility that posed a health risk to himself and his family.

Brittany had up to 20 aggressive tantrums or self-injury episodes a day. Any disruption in her environment resulted in aggression. She is typically non-verbal and will not calm down until the environment is restored.

Billy has a retinal detachment that makes this kind of self-injury particularly dangerous. He also has severe mental retardation, a seizure disorder and a skull fracture from a previous self-injury trauma.

The team discovered a dental problem that led Brittany to slap her own face. They also adjusted her psychotropic drug therapy and taught her sign language. She can now tolerate changes in her environment by asking appropriately and by distracting herself with other toys.

## **BBU Video**

### **Video**

Billy with microswitch  
(44:10:18.)

Blum examining patient  
CU Blum with stethoscope  
Blum at nurses station

Blum: 23:00 – 24:05

LS observation room  
MS tech taking notes with monitor  
in BG

MS tutor and patient  
Blum w/ second patient and parent

Jackie: 13:58:04 – 14:33:00

Michael & Mom arm in arm  
(50:13:19)

Mrs. Garnet (51:05:02)

Michael (53:10:18.)

FREEZE FRAME (2 secs)  
FADE TO BLACK

### **Audio**

Billy was taught to request what he wants with a microswitch instead of injuring himself. Eventually he was weaned off the bottle entirely and taught to drink from a cup.

Medical complications are often a factor in these patients, as the previous cases illustrate. Dr. Nathan Blum explains the role of the developmental pediatrician on the unit.

“Three primary roles the physicians...need to be treated with medications.

The professionals on the Biobehavioral Unit at Children’s Seashore House contribute the expertise of many disciplines to effect long-term solutions for behavior problems. They evaluate the medical, pharmacological and environmental conditions that cause problem behavior and treat it successfully. But the care doesn’t end at the doorstep. The treatment is reinforced at home and with other professional caregivers. Jackie Brennan remembers.

“I think the key was coordination...without it I don’t think it would have worked.

Michael is back at home with his mother when he’s not at school or working at Pizza Hut where he is a model employee. His mother is happy to have the real Michael back.

“He’s like a different person...pleasure to have around

"This is great"