

nild Christian School
national institute for
learning development

Connection

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Letter from Michael

Hi,

I am Michael from Asheville, N.C. I go to Asheville Christian Academy and here is my story. I came to ACA in the second grade. I had some problems in math, spelling and reading. I could not write long sentences. My teacher was a very positive teacher. I accepted the Lord as my savior in second grade and I know the Lord has helped me.

In third grade I had much more troubles - especially in handwriting. It was unreadable. My teacher recommended I go to NILD. I had a bad attitude when I came - mostly towards Rhythmic Writing.

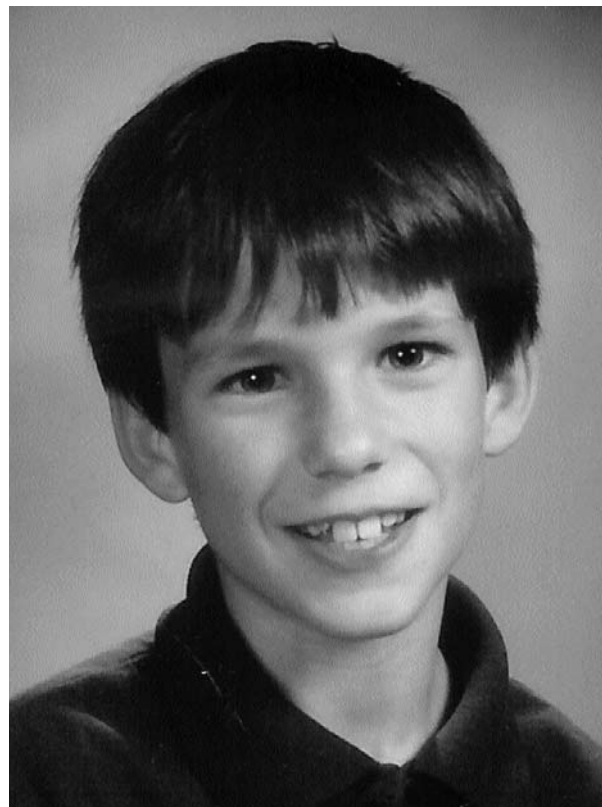
One day I decided to be positive and just do it with no complaints. It was easy. I was challenged in the *Blue Book* by my therapist stretching me to learn all the *Blue Book* which made me come a long way.

Getting along with other kids was difficult for me. I have been helped socially and I have a lot of friends in 4th grade now.

In 4th grade my teacher complimented me for my handwriting. My grades have gone extremely higher. Now it is really fun going to school and NILD.

My advice to other people is when you have struggles why don't you just stand up and do it and believe in yourself! The Lord has helped me and He can help you too.

-Michael Dunham



Michael Dunham

them in the inn. There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby watching their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and said, Do not be afraid for I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, for he is Christ the Lord."

We are so proud of Michael and I have been blessed to have been his therapist.

-Edna Becker

I am Michael's 4th grade teacher, and I can attest that he has done very well this year. In fact this morning we finished our in-class competition for the National Geographic Geography Bee, and Michael was the winner in our class, so he will represent us at the school-wide Geography Bee!

-Mary Anne Davis

I just wanted to tell you all what a miracle has happened in Michael's life. We are amazed at what has happened to Michael since his early struggles. His writing was so poor and now he has beautiful handwriting. He just recently said from memory the following verses from Luke at our Christmas program:

"And she gave birth to her first-born - a son. She wrapped him in cloth and placed him in a manger because there was no room for



Dr. Kathy Hopkins

Dear Co-Laborers,

This issue of our Christian School Connection is all about the students...the products of our hard work. I always feel a lump growing in my throat when I hear the stories. They come from around the globe. I remember the first time I saw Rhythmic Writing done in a mud hit in Africa, in a missionary's home in Gaza as soldiers with guns roamed the streets, in an English school with a British accent. We who have been given the great commission are the most privileged to carry help to struggling learners as a symbol of the cup of cold water. Grace Mutzabaugh would sign all her letters, "Your missionary to the LD world." Let's not lose the passion! Have a great year.

Blessings, *Kathy Hopkins*

An Educational Therapist's Paraphrase of I Corinthians 13

If I speak the directions concisely and with little verbiage, but do not have love, I am not an educational therapist.

And if I have the gift of 8's and know all the motifs and all the *Blue Book*, but do not have love,

I am not an educational therapist.

And if I have my forms in order, buzzer word ready and map on the wall and have not love,

I am not an educational therapist.

For love is patient with the hyperactive child whose session is after the class party Kool-Aid...

Love does not brag when annual test scores show significant growth.

Love is not jealous when the basketball team gets new uniforms, but there is not money for Discovery.

Love does not act unbecomingly when the band practices outside the therapy station. For if there be body image parts missing, they will be found.

If there be KEYWO wins, they will be forgotten.

If there be the integration of psychomotor and cognitive skills for the development of hemispheric specialization for language, it will not be understood.

For now abides WISC scores, dictation, and wire frames, but greater than these is love.

*Original was created from a 1994 Training Class
Updated version from Level I Norfolk, 2008*

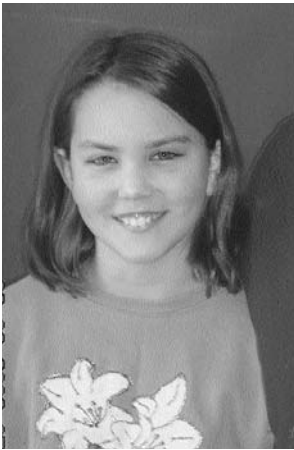
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**Executive Director
Kathy Hopkins**

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Kathy Phelps**

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kathyphelps
@nild.org**

**NILD
107 Seekel St.
Norfolk VA 23505
757-423-8646
1-877-661-6453
www.nild.org**



NILD Therapy

Rachael Swartzfager is 11 years old and has completed 3 years of NILD Educational Therapy. This was her closing essay.

Educational therapy has helped me in so many ways. I have better handwriting and better spelling; I can concentrate better, I don't get mad as often; I don't want to run away anymore, I can remember more, and now I can read cursive.

First, I have much better handwriting. When I started three years ago it was very difficult to read my print and cursive. I have better spelling too. I used to range from sixty-five to fifty-four on my spelling tests, now I range from ninety to one hundred.

I can concentrate on my schoolwork. I used to have to stay up really late working on schoolwork and homework, now I get it done during the day and have time to play and get to sleep on time. Next, I don't get mad as often. I used to scream when it got too loud, but now I can concentrate even when its loud.

Whenever I got a really bad grade I wanted to run away. I've gotten alot of help from educational therapy and I don't want to run away anymore. I can remember more things and as well as what people say.

I can read and write cursive now. Three years ago I couldn't read and write any cursive. Lastly, I have gained a larger group of vocabulary words. When I was in third grade I didn't have a good vocabulary. NILD has helped me and will help many others.

*Submitted by Nancy Jessen
Private Practice Educational Therapist
Marvin, NC*

My Door in the Wall

Sarah Merced is 11 years old and is in her second year of educational therapy.



Everyone that God created is different. I know that "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." As a result, God allows us to have walls in our lives which are problems that help us face our fears. These walls also help us trust more in the Lord. My door in the wall has been my struggle in school. School has been difficult because I have always had to work really hard to get good grades.

Thanks to God, this wall is starting to become a door because I have been praying to God asking Him to help me. Second, I know that my whole family has been praying for me. Thirdly, my parents have been encouraging me to do better in school by helping me with my homework, praising me, and by giving me money when I get good grades. Furthermore, even though it costs a lot of money, my parents have put me in educational therapy, which teaches you that school can be fun. It also teaches me to do my best.

As a result, God has used this door in the wall to help me understand to trust Him. I am also learning to never be afraid of things that seem hard at first. He is teaching me "not to lean on my own understanding," and that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." In conclusion, I know that no matter how many doors in the wall I have in my life, God has a perfect plan for me.

*Submitted by Carmela Merced
NILD Educational Therapist
Discovery Program of Georgia*



I will remember you, angel beside me... I will remember you. Angel beside me, guiding me, strengthening my thoughts and building my hopes. In this moment I will pause and remember you. In this moment I will hold hope and believe in brighter days. In this moment I believe my angel beside me will shield me from my weariness and isolation of loneliness. In this moment I feel brilliant, courageous, celebrated. In this momemt grace and tenderness is clearly defined through patience, listening and greatness. In this moment I am as tall as a mountain, understanding and not being misunderstood. And now, in this moment, I pause and remember you, angel beside me.

Written by Alexander Lazar and is dedicated to his educational therapist Ronda Mayfield in Houston, TX

2009 Regional Conferences

Plan now to attend one near you!

(Professional Development Points or CEU's available)

January 22-23, 2009

Portland, Oregon

Keynote by Dr. Jane Healy, author: Your Child's Growing Mind

February 19-20, 2009

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Keynote by Rick Lavoie, author: The Motivation Breakthrough

March 12-13, 2009

Orlando, Florida

Keynote by Dr. Louisa Moats, author: Speech to Print

Watch the NILD website, www.nild.org for registrations and more information.



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NILD's mission is to build the competence and confidence of those who struggle to learn by training educators and developing programs.