

nild *Christian School*
national institute for
learning development

Connection

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Letter from Samuel

Hello,

My name is Samuel Ensenat and I was a student who struggled to learn due to dyslexia.

I first became aware that I had dyslexia when I was in first grade. No longer was there only coloring, nap time and recess like in Pre-K and Kindergarten. All that fun was replaced with reading, writing, and arithmetic. Our teacher had a simple rule, finish your work and you can go play in the back of the room. What a frustration it was that I could never make it to the play time because I could not finish my work. I was traumatized by this and had a severe dislike towards school and most specifically reading. I would be reading one line and find myself skipping words, lines, even paragraphs. In math, I found myself reading an addition symbol when it was really a subtraction symbol and vice versa. Vocabulary and spelling were difficult as well as I was always getting definitions mixed up, and putting letters in the wrong place.

As difficult as school was for me, homework was even worse. It was very rare that I would be able to finish homework in less than 3 or 4 hours. School had become my life, but in a very inefficient and ineffective way. My parents finally realized there was something wrong as I headed into fourth grade. They took me to visit a counselor and it was there that I was diagnosed with dyslexia. Within a few weeks I was introduced to one of the most significant people in my



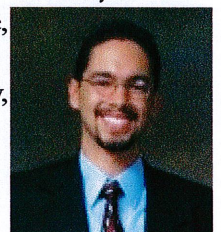
Samuel and Mrs. Janet Butler

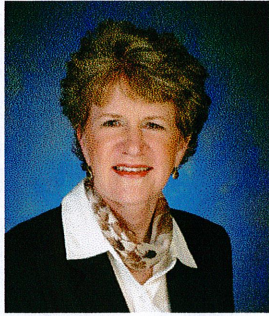
life, my Discovery therapists, Mrs. Janet Butler. Together for the next three years we did “exercises” that helped my left and right side of the brain work together correctly. It was during my fifth grade year that I finally began to make a turnaround. My studying was becoming more efficient and now I had time for after school activities, besides homework! I was able to participate more in class with a new sense of confidence that had been lacking. That fifth grade year was

also memorable as I received the Disney Dreamers and Doers award. I went on to graduate from high school with a 3.9 GPA and went on to the University of Central Florida where I made the Deans List . After receiving my Bachelor’s Degree in Management Information Systems I now work within the Human Resources department of UCF. I am very grateful to God Almighty for giving me the support I needed during my childhood through my parents, Mrs. Butler, and the Discovery Program to get me where I am today. I thank God for giving me the mind that I have, it has shaped me to be a winner.

Sincerely,

Samuel Ensenat
Orlando, FL





Dr. Kathy Hopkins

Dear Co-Laborers,

It is a joy to continue to celebrate the successes of these hard-working students. This year NILD has mailed out more than 50 certificates of completion to students who have graduated from their NILD programs. Well done to both students and educational therapists! Each begins a more competent and confident journey thanks to the hard work of many. I remember a quote from Gordon MacDonald who summarizes this success beautifully. "If the practices are hard, the race will be a pleasure."

Look for some new surprises from NILD in the fall in the form of creative ideas and snippets to all who log on to the web site. We will be temporarily suspending the Connection newsletter and the DISCOVERIES journal. In the meantime, we are hoping to partner with the Association of Educational Therapists (AET) by producing professional articles through their journal. More on that in the fall. Hope to see you at one of our three conferences this year! May you sense God's abundant pleasure as you begin your new year! Blessings, *Kathy Hopkins*

A Letter from Josh

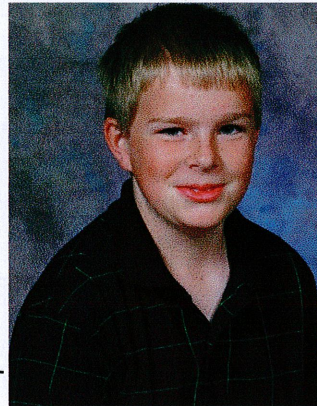
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My name is Josh, I am almost finished with 5th grade, and I have been in Discovery for 2 years. At first I hated it and banged my head on my desk. I didn't understand it, but now I know that it has helped me a lot with school and at home. I improved my grades. I used to hate writing, but now I am fine with it. I can figure out how to spell words easier. I can do math in my head faster, and I can explain my answers easier. When I slow down, my handwriting is better. When I first started Discovery, I was afraid kids would make fun of me, but they never did. I thought I didn't need Discovery, but now I know that I did need it. It has made me feel better about myself. I can write a paragraph without complaining. I can figure things out on my own and not have to ask for help every time. Now I ask for help only when I truly need it. The first year I hated going to Discovery, but this year I am fine with it. To the kids who will be starting, I want you to know that it's not that hard; we play some games, and the time passes quickly. It is actually kind of fun. I'm glad I took Discovery and know it will help me the rest of my life. Josh Arends, 6th grader



through trial and error; it has indeed been a struggle. I am so grateful that Joshua will not have to travel the same road. Truly the Lord has provided. Having assisted Joshua with his exercises enable me to find new ways to deal with my own struggles. Thank you for your role in this. Rick Arends

I'm Josh's mom. When Cheryl De Jong first told me that she thought Josh would benefit from the Discovery program I was devastated. I never had any problems learning in school and it really upset me. He was in Discovery for 2 years, and he is a different person now because of the program. He fought her at first doing Rhythmic Writing.

He would almost cry at night because he had homework, and he hated homework. His grades now are almost all A's and he has confidence in what he does. He has seen what it has done for him. Kids didn't make fun of him as he expected them to do. It is not a program for "dumb" kids. It is a program for kids who need to learn how to do things differently, it is a program for learning development. At first we didn't know if we could afford to have Josh take the class. I know now that what he learned could not have a price put on it. It was worth every penny that we paid to see him gain confidence and learn how to learn.

Janean Arends

I'm Josh's dad. I would like to express my extreme pleasure with the results concerning Joshua's performance in the Discovery Program and its effect on me. It may interest you to know I encounter the same issues in my life. I have learned to compensate for many of the issues

My Discovery Experience

Discovery has helped me so much in my four years with Mrs. Gill. I started at the end of my second grade year in a reading group where we worked on reading fluency and comprehension. The next year I started Discovery. Since then I have improved in every area but mostly in reading fluency, spelling, and math. My friend has told me that she has seen improvement in my reading from 4th to 6th grade. Though having homework is sometimes hard and never fun, it's like learning to ride a bike. You have to work to learn to ride it and it is never fun when you fall off. It is the same with Discovery. Though sometimes I thought it was too hard and wanted to give up I kept on going and have seen the rewards and so have my friends and teachers. Discovery can help anyone improve their knowledge and strengthen things that they are not the best at. If someone asked me if I should change anything in my life Discovery would not be my answer because it has helped me so much. I encourage people who are already in Discovery or are thinking of joining to do their best though it is hard because it will help them.

Emma Percy
May, 2009

Submitted by Ann Gill, CET
The King's Academy
West Palm Beach, FL

Three Wishes

Having wishes can be a dangerous thing, but at the same time, they can be a blessing. If I had three wishes, I would wish for wisdom so I could make smarter decisions, patience so I would always be able to listen to people; and my last wish would be to have a burning desire for the kingdom of God. Those are the three wishes that would bring glory to God.

Josh O'Neal
January, 2009



This pencil drawing was done by Kayla Ruiz when she was a seventh grader, completing her third year of Discovery. She finished eighth grade with a GPA of 3.875, participated in the performing chorus at her middle school, and served as student government treasurer. Her winning attitude and perseverance are demonstrated further as she excels in Lacrosse, swim team, and travel soccer. One coach described Kayla as being a great athlete who is focused, attentive, and gives 100% all the time. As her educational therapist, I have seen Kayla develop into a self-confident young lady with the realization that she can achieve success in any area of life.

Submitted by Linnea Rawlins, CET
Private Practice, California, MD



This Mixed Media Card was created by Christian Kennedy, a student at Five Oaks Academy in Simpsonville, SC. His educational therapist is Suzanne Ringer, Pearl Center for Learning, Mauldin, SC. Christian enjoys art and swimming. He says all his subjects are his favorite.

The Wolf

By Chris Meindl

*He sneaks with silent sneaky strides
Through the woods and trees he hides
And like a spy, his time he bides*

*Looking for prey his chops he licks
The deer is the one he always picks
Cooks it over fire with wood and sticks*

Chris, age 13, was an educational therapy student at Southside Christian School located in Simpsonville, SC for grades, 3, 4, and 5. After taking a break for one year, Chris enrolled at the Pearl Center for Learning for educational therapy and classes. His therapist is Martha Covington and the teacher of the class for which he wrote this poem is Emily Mangum.

