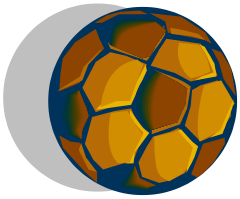
Child's Confidence Improves as Vision Problem Checked

Classes - Reading

As the youngest of five children, Jesse is a confident child, used to asserting her will, according to her mother, JoAnn. But placed in a school setting, she was shy and scared and didn't work up to her ability.

"You wouldn't even know she was there," said JoAnn.

Jesse wouldn't raise her hand or answer questions; she didn't even want to play soccer with the other children. She also had trouble with reading and spelling, showing a poor performance for her age level.



Jesse was tested by the public school system and found to have a short-term memory lapse. She had trouble remembering the alphabet, her right hand from her left, and even what she had eaten earlier in the day.

"It's something to sit in on the tests and know your child knows it, then seeing her forget it," said JoAnn.

The school system recommended special education for Jesse, but JoAnn, knowing her child has a high IQ, said "No, that's not where she belongs."

Tutors for Jesse didn't solve the problem either. JoAnn did hold Jesse back a grade – "she had just slipped too far behind" – but wanted to find another way to deal with the issue.

That's when JoAnn decided to go an alternative route with Options Center. Tests conducted there indicated a vision problem, said JoAnn.

"She just needed a little help to retrain the brain," she noted.

Jesse was writing her b's and d's backwards as well as her 3's and 5's. She hated reading and wouldn't go near video games because her hand-to-eye coordination wasn't good enough to master them.

It turned out, said JoAnn, Jesse was reading one side of the page with one eye and the other side with the other eye. Now she's reading with both eyes working together with the help of eye exercises, JoAnn said.

The Brain Gym® exercises, which stress such things as focusing and hand-to- eye coordination, are designed to get the muscles working together, she said. And JoAnn is seeing the difference in her self-confidence as well as her performance in school. Her teachers have noticed the difference as well, having commented as much to JoAnn.

Not only does Jesse volunteer in class, reads aloud in class and even

begged her parents to let her play soccer this year, Jesse reads every day at home and even reads the road signs to the family on their travels in the car.

Last year, JoAnn had to drill her repeatedly over spelling words and Jesse would still falter on the tests. However, this year she is getting the words spelled correctly with much less studying needed. JoAnn attributes that to Jesse's increased amount of reading. She encounters the words in her reading, which helps her remember them better, she said.

"This year, her ability is up to where it should be at her grade level," said JoAnn. "I think it's mostly Options' giving her that confidence of going ahead and trying."

"Options has made her feel good about herself and helped her self-esteem," she added. "And she feels very confident about going there. She knows she'll be welcome."

If you would like to communicate with Options, please feel free to email - options@mtco.com.

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