



Dean's Story Getting to Grade Level



Dean

Age: 11

Location: Ontario

Diagnosis:

Auditory Processing Disorder
and dyspraxia



Protocol

Dean originally worked for 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week, for 6 months. He completed the Fast ForWord Literacy Series. After a break, Dean has returned to us to continue his work in both reading and math.



Results

After speaking with Dean's teacher, his mother was pleased to report that he had increased his reading level by 1.5 years and is now reading on grade level.

Dean was always a happy, outgoing, and confident child. He rarely had a lot of homework and seemed genuinely content most of the time. And so, his parents were surprised when he began to fall behind in his school work and his teacher expressed concerns about his anxiety level. His parents began looking for answers and soon learned that Dean had a learning disability. He was diagnosed with auditory processing disorder (APD) and dyspraxia. Dean's school didn't offer services to support learners with APD. Fortunately, a professional recommended Fast ForWord.

Dean's mother liked the structure of the program and found that her son was very willing to work on the exercises. He looked forward to telling his mom when he'd improved in a game. However, as the exercises became harder Dean started skipping activities and sessions. This can happen with some students and is part of the reason our program managers monitor progress and usage so closely.

"He's reading at his grade level. I am sure that has to do with Fast ForWord." –Dean's mom

His mom feels the Gemm staff played a key part in turning Dean's behavior around. "You know right away if they're slacking off. You always call to check and see how things are. That shows that you care about your program, the individual and the frustration of the parent, which I think is wonderful. I also like the fact that you girls are rooting for him. You tell him what he needs to hear."

With some encouragement, Dean's participation improved. He worked hard on his program and began to see its impact, especially with his memory. His anxiety at school decreased and his mother noticed him becoming more responsible and independent, "more self-regulating as opposed to a learned helplessness. He's taking charge a bit more when it comes to his schoolwork".

Dean eventually went from reading at a 5th grade level at the beginning of the school year to reading on grade level (7th grade) by the year's end. His mom feels that parental support, a child working on the program independently, and Gemm in the background every step of the way is a structure that "can't go wrong" and is instrumental in student success.