



Georgia's Story Connecting the Dots



Georgia

Age: 11

Location: CA

Diagnosis: APD



Protocol

Georgia worked for 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week for 12 months. She completed Fast ForWord Literacy, Literacy Advanced. She also participated in our Reading Series, Reflex Math and DreamBox Learning.



Results

Georgia struggled with level 2 readers. Within a year she has progressed to chapter books. Her listening skills have grown, leading to ease of conversation and overall communication.

When Georgia was 4 ½ years old, her mother grew concerned. As she worked to help prepare Georgia for school, she noticed that her daughter had a limited vocabulary and was unable to remember things. Their pediatrician didn't seem worried and suggested that the school would test her, if needed. In kindergarten, the school identified language and fine motor delays, which led to speech and occupational therapy. But Georgia's mom felt there was a bigger picture. She spent hours researching her daughter's concerns and determined they were in line with symptoms of APD, dyspraxia, dysgraphia, and possibly dyscalculia. An official diagnosis would come much later.

In addition to academic challenges, Georgia was beginning to be affected socially. The lack of higher level language skills led to misunderstandings with peers and difficulty explaining situations to supervisors. As her friends began communicating at a higher level, Georgia became quieter. She was reluctant to go to new places or be around new people and situations she could not predict. Her mother explained, "Her world, in a way, was becoming so small."

Georgia's family discovered Fast ForWord and believed the program would address their daughter's core issues: sequencing, recall, processing speed, comprehension.

"Without a doubt, Fast ForWord is the breakthrough tool I was looking for." Georgia's Mother

In the beginning of Georgia's program there was a lot of crying, frustration, and frequent calls to Gemm support staff for coaching and strategies. Her mother explains that the first thirty days were the hardest, but they encouraged Georgia, because they knew it would help her. In time, the program just became part of her routine, and by around three months, her parents witnessed the first changes. It started with what they describe as *a much greater awareness*. Georgia began reading road signs, billboards and menus and comprehending what they meant. Words were now being spoken aloud with confidence. Her parents began to see Georgia *connecting the dots* and the changes *just snowballed from there*.

At six months, Georgia could be given an assignment, focus, and recall the information covered. Therapists had tried helping her memorize her phone number and address for years, without success. Now she knows them. Currently in 5th grade, Georgia's *confidence is through the roof*. She's using higher level language and comprehends better, both when reading and listening. She participates more in conversations with peers and is able to follow along, ask questions, and change topics with no noticeable difficulty. Her mother attributes these changes to the program. She also credits the program management staff with always being available to provide strategies, advice, or even a friendly ear when frustrations arose. Her advice to other parents who are considering or just starting the program: "You just have to stick with it. It works. It works."