



Benjamin's Story Listening and Reading with Joy!



Benjamin

Age: 8

Location: NC

Diagnosis: APD



Protocol

Benjamin worked for 50 minutes per day, 5 days per week, for 4 months. He completed Fast ForWord Language, Language to Reading, and is working on Reading 1.



Results

Benjamin is reading with confidence and joy. His spelling has improved by nearly two grade levels in just 4 months. He is able to listen and follow along during his homeschool lessons and group activities.

Benjamin is home schooled. In second grade, he was still having difficulty recognizing the correct short vowel sounds which made spelling frustrating. His mother tried switching to a specialized program, starting with kindergarten level words, but he continued to make mistakes. She started to wonder if there was a problem with Benjamin's hearing and took him to see an audiologist. He passed the hearing test, but an auditory processing evaluation was recommended. Benjamin was assessed last summer, and they learned that he had some deficits that needed to be addressed. She also spoke with a speech pathologist and occupational therapist. All three recommended Fast ForWord.

Benjamin's mother was already familiar with the program, which her older son worked on years before. An online search led her to Gemm Learning. Working on Fast ForWord five days a week was difficult at first. The initial exercises were challenging. Benjamin would complete the hardest games first, saving favorites for last. They also broke the program up, doing a few games in the morning and the rest in the afternoon, during the time usually set aside for spelling. His mother joined him when needed, sitting in on specific games. Benjamin enjoyed this time with her, and began to like the games more as he progressed. He stopped thinking of the activities as work, and relished the opportunity to play on the computer.

"It is an investment in time that is definitely worth it!"

-Benjamin's Mom

Within a month and a half on the program, Benjamin and his mother started to see changes. He noticed that his fluency was better and he was spelling words correctly. His mother saw Benjamin enjoying reading and becoming more confident during oral presentations in front of their home school group. By two months, chapter books, which had previously taken over a month to complete, were read in a week, prompting Benjamin to request they call his grandparents and share the good news. He made fewer mistakes when reading word problems, and spelling, which was at a 2.5 grade level just before the program, was now 4th grade level after four months. This week Benjamin had Field Day. In years past this meant difficulty following along with activity directions and a lukewarm experience. This year he "had a blast", his mother didn't need to repeat instructions and they both focused on having fun.

Although Benjamin's mother concedes "It's an investment in time," she wants other parents to know that the program is "definitely worth it". "You might not see gains right away", and you may wonder "how listening to sounds and discerning between frequencies can make a difference", but the end result will make all clear. Benjamin is now a confident reader and listener. He is able to participate in school and during outside activities. Benjamin is living his potential.