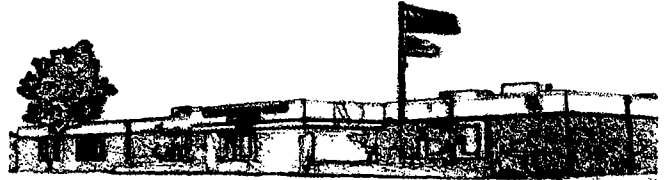
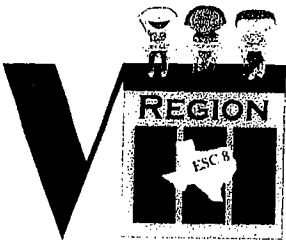


Region VIII Education Service Center



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The Blake "Gem" Story

The story is about my grandson Blake that is a true "gem" of a young man. He is currently nine years old and had to repeat the third grade because he simply could not read. His grandfather, that being me, has spent a career spanning some thirty plus years working to help students with learning issues. The research has provided educators many more ways to help kids than in the past. However, looking back there are many students that with the right processes in place would have made some "gem" students.

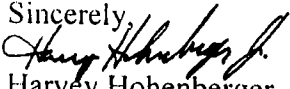
It has been my experiences that if a child is given the choice of being a good student or a poor student that each one would pick the easy path. The analogy might be made that if each of us could be born rich and good looking which would you prefer? The point being made is that Blake did not select his learning issues but has really refused to let these get him down. At the same time he has a family environment of love and support to help him that many children in present day society do not!

Blake was tested at his local school and of course was told that he has dyslexia. Having been through extensive training in my career through the Scottish Rite Hospital this was not a diagnosis that held true to my teachings. Many young children will show dyslexic tendencies but are not truly dyslexic. After about a year of total frustration Blake went to an ophthalmologist approximately one hundred miles from home that required a weekly trip with expensive bills and little results.

In the fall of 2004, Cheryl Carpenter, consultant at Region 8 Service Center, asked me to bring Blake to the service center and allow her to do a Brain Gym® balance. She worked with Blake on two separate occasions and improvements were evident. On his third visit Pamela Curlee, licensed brain gym instructor/consultant, and Cheryl worked with Blake's reflexes using Brain Gym movements and neurokinesiology. The results have been nothing short of miraculous.

In closing, Blake took his third grade state assessment on grade level and got thirty of thirty-six correct on the first opportunity. Blake's attitude about school and his self-esteem has improved two hundred percent as well. His handwriting that had been such a struggle is now easy to read and flows evenly. It has been said that if you do something for someone as an individual that one appreciates your efforts. If you do something for someone's kid they will remember you for ever. It needs to be extended to say that if you do something for someone's grandkid that changes the course of their life, you will cherish that person for ever. Thanks to Cheryl Carpenter for making a difference.

Sincerely,


Harvey Hohenberger, Jr.

"Quality Services Today... School Improvement Tomorrow"

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