

Our third child at the age of 6 went through testing and therapies for the next 1-½ years. We were doing physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and vision therapy. I only did one therapy a day because of the physical, mental and emotional exhaustion. Most of the time the drive home from therapy was difficult he would be crying, cranky and inconsolable. It was a relief when he would fall asleep on the drive home, most days it was hard. We made little progress in that year and a half, the following year when he turned 7 insurance would no longer cover the therapies since the school district was expected to provide the services.

So we went to the school district and he qualified for services but after going through a whole school year of receiving no service and being told I would have to re-qualify for the following year we searched else where. We didn't feel this was the best use of our time and energy. It had taken hours of meetings to accomplish nothing.

So, we would visit the therapists on a quarterly basis and each would instruct us on what to do at home. Still the progress was not measurable and closer to non-existent. None of the therapists worked together on the therapies.

This is when I met a parent that told us about ICAN. By this time we were weary to say the least, we had tried a number of other options that I won't take the time to list. So we began with ICAN in May of 2004. By this time we were on approximately our 4th phonics program, 2nd reading tutor and still reading at about a 2nd grade reading level at best. We would set the timer for him to read for 10 minutes at a time. His Auditory Processing was a challenge; when I read to him I would ask every few sentences who the main character of the story was and what was happening the majority of the time he could not tell us. He could not do verbal math. I was doing my best to teach everything visually.

Fast forward to January of 2007 we have been doing program for 2-1/2 years his reading is approximately at the 8th grade reading level and I have to tell him to stop reading. He has been finishing 400+ page age appropriate and higher level books at a rate of one a week. He is comprehending, and recalling what he has read. This past summer he was able to remember and use a phone number told to him by a friend. He is doing verbal math and taking great delight in discussing math.

Program isn't easy, no therapy is, we are asking our child to learn something new that their body is not able to do. It would be like me competing on the balance beam when I can't even do a cartwheel. This would take hours if not years of agonizing practice and I would have to work hard on my attitude while doing an activity that I have no interest in or able to understand the benefit of doing.

Our son is now seeing the benefit of program and is a great deal more cooperative. It has been a long road but I have hope because of program. He is now 15 making strides in his academics, socially and in his physical activities. He is doing well. We are thankful for our ND without program we would not have made it to where we are. I have not done program as I should have but our sons have still benefited from the program. I hope to encourage you that it is not easy and progress is at times slow and hard to measure but worth the work. Sometimes the progress shows up in ways that we don't expect like being able to follow a conversation or able to carry out a task. Sometimes we don't realize how far we've come because it is a slow but steady progress.

As a note I have only written about one of our sons. We are doing program with two of them and both are doing well. Many thanks to ICAN ND's and the parents on this list for your courage and encouragement.

Blessings,  
-Joyce and family