



Stern Center

for Language and Learning

Testimonials

success tonight!!!!

Sandy and Audrey.....My son and I are jumping for joy tonight!! He read all of his spelling words for the week by sounding them out as you taught him Sandy with his fingers saying each sound and then putting them together...and he had success ON HIS OWN WITHOUT MY HELP!!! He read each and every one!!! I made a copy for you sandy because my son wanted to show you how he can do this tomorrow when you meet... Thanks to both of you!! Small steps but great ones!

Mom and son (November 01, 2009)

...his place in the world...

For the first time ever our son is talking about wanting to attend college and what areas he may want to study. WOW! This is huge for our child. Without the support from the Cynthia K. Hoehl Scholarship this would not be happening. This high level of specialized education is clearly making a difference in his life. His one on one services are helping him to understand that he is not "dumb" as he has stated in the past but a learner who simply learns differently. Helping him create his place in the world as an active community member who really can make a difference should be what every teacher strives for and the Stern Center is definitely doing it with our son.

Mom (March 25, 2009)

Wonderful Stern Center Help

I am benefiting very much from my work with Andrea Todd from the Center.

It has been so helpful to have someone with whom to meet regularly. I audited part of Dr. Forehand's UVM Neuroanatomy course in January and through the first exam in February. We worked out some new techniques that worked very well in that setting and I did extremely well on that exam/practical.

With Andrea's help am working out a manageable schedule so that I can apply the basic skills (how to best review notes, make flashcards, etc) that worked in the Neuroanatomy course to the more intense med school schedule. It has been so helpful to meet with Andrea so frequently as we work through this. I have found myself more organized and confident and happy with the speed with which I am able to adapt to new things.

Thank you for all your help.

UVM Medical Student (February 19, 2010)

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I can sing the praises of the Stern Center.

It's hard to express in words what the Stern Center has meant to my family. (A little background)... We have two children that struggle with reading. Both children are polite, well behaved and have a tremendous work ethic even at the very young ages of 11 and 9 years old. They were not getting the instruction that would help them overcome their difficulties, even though they (and us) demonstrated the ability to do whatever was asked. I believe their difficulty with reading was because of a lack of direct instruction and because of their classroom teachers did not have the tools to teach kids that learned differently. I also believe that my children were over looked because they were not behavioral issues. Had their teachers gotten to know them, they would have discovered children that have a love of learning, natural curiosity and senses of humor, and a love of reading with a boat-load of family support.

Thankfully, a long time friend and teacher recommended that we contact the Stern Center. Ellen immediately enrolled my children. She took the time to assess them in a friendly, low stress manner and to develop a teaching strategy and curriculum to help them. She took the time to get to know each of my children, their likes, dislikes as well as their strengths and their challenges. She lovingly taught them for two years and then passed them on to Elizabeth and Ann this year. Although, this was scary for us, because we were most familiar with Ellen, she chose instructors that would easily mesh with my children. Ann and Elizabeth have taught our son and daughter in the same loving and encouraging manner. So well in fact, our daughter will graduate from the program next week. The beauty of the instruction, in my opinion is each week they finds new ways to encourage them and inspire them to try new and sometimes difficult things. My children love going to the Stern Center and actually feel sad if we miss a week. I would like to note, they attended all summer (two times per week) for the last two summers and did not complain once!!!

We have seen tremendous improvement in our kids' ability to read, but more than that we have seen an increase in their self-confidence. Ellen, Elizabeth and Ann have taught them that everyone struggles with something, and that together, they will find a way to get through the challenging stuff. They have armed them with an arsenal of skills that my children will use throughout their education and their lives. They have taught them to keep trying even when it seems impossible and that success is not measured by a grade but rather by how they handle a challenge. Valuable life lessons that will help my children with more than just school work!!

Mom (February 04, 2010)

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