

Last March, my second-grade son, Jack, started the listening program at the Center for Listening and Learning in Gainesville, FL with Diane Daniels. At that time, Jack sometimes had difficulty communicating, both orally and in writing. He would become extremely frustrated when the message he was trying to convey was not understood, and in exasperation, he would abandon communicating at all, often with the frustrated comment, "Never mind!" In addition, although Jack was reading at grade level, he did not enjoy it. He avoided reading and always said it was boring. These difficulties have eased since starting the listening program with Diane.

Now Jack is not as easily frustrated. He is better able to express himself. If he is not understood, he restates his ideas or questions in a different way. This is a marked difference. Jack's attitudes towards reading have changed as well. Within a few weeks of starting the program, he suddenly started reading everything. As we were driving from place to place, Jack would read road signs, billboards, and even subdivision names. These were things he had not previously paid attention to. He would also read any print that appeared on television. About that time I discovered Nickelodeon magazine and subscribed to it. Jack would pour over it without being asked to. Jack's reading level was tested at school about a week after he started the program, and he scored in the 63rd percentile. He was then tested again a little over two months into the program, and his score had gone up to the 97th percentile.

There have been other changes in Jack as well. He is constantly asking his dad or me about the meaning of new words he encounters. His coordination seems to have improved, and oddly enough, the number of foods he will eat has increased along with a willingness to try new foods. Overall, Jack seems to be a happier child since going through the listening program as some of his frustrations have eased, and his curiosity, especially about language, has soared.

On a final note, Jack loved his time at the Center for Listening and Learning. Diane made the experience interesting, enjoyable, and relaxing. She's wonderful with children, and Jack looked forward to his sessions with her. My husband and I are very grateful for all she has done for Jack. We highly recommend the program to any parent whose child is experiencing the same frustrations that our child did.

Kimberly C. Cook
Parent & Teacher