

Parent and Student Testimonies

My 18-year old son is graduating in four short months from high school thanks to the cognitive help he received from the Arrowsmith Program. Getting him to this point was a long and sometimes painful process.

Signs of John's struggles academically were noticed very early on by his Kindergarten and first grade teachers. By fifth grade, his academic struggles were beyond his ability to cope and his parent's ability to help. We switched schools, employed numerous tutors, and enrolled John in specialty reading and math programs. These options did very little to improve his academic performance and he was falling further and further behind his peers. John hobbled along academically through 8th grade with a patchwork of tutors, teaching specialist, Individual Education Plans, evaluations, testing, and after school learning programs. Still, all this outside assistance failed in helping John academically and he continued to fall further and further behind.

When we heard about the Arrowsmith Program, we knew it would address the root cause of John's learning issues--his cognitive weaknesses. After we moved to Vancouver, B.C., Canada, John began the Arrowsmith Program continuing through his junior year. His ability to learn, retain information, process information in "real time," do math, and reason outcomes developed and strengthened through the months in the Arrowsmith Program. He also developed a strong work ethic and ability to do homework on his own!

John now enjoys being in a classroom setting and hold his own academically with his peers. He sometimes even surpasses his expectations in subjects that were once his greatest struggle by making A's on final exams.

Junior year, John applied to 6 universities and was accepted to 5 (still waiting to hear from #6). He starts Aug. 22 as a freshman at the University of AZ. This would not have been possible without the cognitive strengthening he received through the Arrowsmith Program. We are deeply grateful for Barbara Arrowsmith and her work.

-Michelle Hutchins, 2016

Hi, my name is Katie Lee; my daughter is Cloie Eagon. My daughter struggled through elementary school. She had ADHD and qualified for an IEP (Individual Education Plan). She was in the resource room for reading writing and math. Since she had a hard time focusing, the extra resources could only take my daughter so far. She had a hard time focusing on most things.

When Cloie was in 5th grade, she struggled at a 3rd grade reading level and maybe a beginning 3rd grade math level. I was very worried about how to help my daughter be successful. We tried plenty of tutoring from various places. Then one day while being counseled by a private tutoring agency, the agency asked if we had heard about the

Arrowsmith program. They explained the program to us and said that Cloie sounded like an ideal match for the program. This program works with 19 different learning disabilities, but primarily, it worked for many kids that had ADD or ADHD.

We decided to give the program a chance. It was a very challenging program for Cloie. She came home very tired from her exercises every day; however, I realized that this program was working a couple months in, when instead of barging into my room, like Cloie normally would do, she quietly knocked on my door and said, "Mom I'm coming in now."

A month after that, Cloie came and told us that her school was hosting a skate night at the roller skating rink. She said that if she came to it, her teacher said she didn't have to do homework. I wasn't sure about this. Really? No homework for showing up? Cloie knew I would have a hard time believing that without a flyer or note of some kind. So, Cloie copied the information on a posted note and had her teachers sign it for proof of the event being legitimate. I was so proud of her for having the forward thinking finally to be successful for her own means; of course, she went skating that night. (As a matter of fact, Cloie goes skating every week now--sometimes several times a week--it's our carrot for working so hard in Arrowsmith still today.

Cloie has made so many gains since joining the program. She is able to problem solve so much easier today. Cloie is only in the program parttime this year and is also taking 9th grade English, Washington State History, Health, and Photography and is succeeding.

This year already she has completed two 9th grade novels with great success. She also participated in the Poetry Out Loud assignment where kids were judged on how well they could memorize and perform a poem. Before, Arrowsmith we would have asked if Cloie could be excused from or have a modified assignment but, this year, Cloie had expanded her memory so much she was able to do it and receive an A for her presentation. "Way to go, Cloie!"

Cloie has grown up so much this year. She is able to recall events, problem solve, reason, forward think and so many more skills! Last summer, Cloie held a job in Alaska fishing on our family boat. Not only was Cloie able to retain the fishing job, she was doing the work of a full grown man.

I can't wait to see what the world has in store for Cloie, because I believe that she is receiving the skills that will make her successful in whatever she chooses to do in life.

-Katie Lee, 2016

Starting the Arrowsmith Program was a leap of faith, one we needed to take. Our son struggled from the very beginning, even before school age, with letters, words, sounds and numbers. Trying to have him read a story was a chore, and now we know the words looked "crazy" to his brain. His senses were highly magnified--the way clothes felt, food textures, sounds, and lights. It was all very overwhelming to him. Once he started school, it became increasingly more evident that we needed to find another way to help him. The use of phonics, Kumon, and other learning modalities were of little use and only added to the stress and worry of not being able to help our otherwise funny, kind, loving, and creative son.

Now, in a new environment, away from the stigma of being in "Special Ed" and with kind, supportive, enthusiastic educators, we are seeing his true potential.

Within the first year, his brain could finally calm down. His focus improved. Letters and words began making sense. He didn't get upset at the smallest things. Little by little, he was reading out loud; he could begin to read a clock!

The thoughts in his mind seemed clearer, and he could see that he could succeed, and that he was smart. He began to carry himself differently; he began to smile; we all began to smile.

With each year of the program (we are now in our third) there has been marked improvement in reading, writing, mathematical skills, problem solving, and becoming comfortable with who he is, as well as, developing an appreciation for his own challenges and those that others face.

We give so much thanks to Barbara Arrowsmith and all the instructors who believed that there was another way that it could be done, and that everyone is worth a chance, if you just believe.

-Linda Stanley 2016

I would add that the Arrowsmith program has enabled our son to succeed in his present nonArrowsmith curriculum. And that he appreciates the challenge. It still is a tremendous amount of effort. Arrowsmith activity is repetitive and monotonous. Even so, we are still encouraged. Our son works hard, and achieves benefits through willpower. Bjorn is a well-adjusted young man. He has dyslexia, which is not understood widely. From my observation, the Gateway Arrowsmith program has children with a wide assortment of needs.

I hope our thoughts are helpful and insightful.

-Gary Stanley 2016

I am deeply grateful to the Gateway Christian Church for their collective vision and gumption in taking on the Arrowsmith program; Arrowsmith has saved my son's life. I really can't fathom who he would be had he had to endure the humiliation and shame and failure that traditional education visits on children with learning differences. Our family is so very grateful that the Gateway Church has made this particular expression of Christ's healing love its mission.

-Colleen Byrum 2015

Emma's, intelligence, near-photographic memory, and determination have all been critical to her success. Arrowsmith taught her to strengthen and use them all together. While the cognitive work is clearly the core of the Arrowsmith program, two other key elements jump out. The first is the training in how to organize work and do that work with gusto rather than letting it pile up or just be processed in a lackluster manner. The second is all the loving support--both the encouragement and the recognition by teachers of all the little successes along the way.

In short, not only does the Arrowsmith program at Gateway develop cognitive abilities so that the student can learn and interact well with others, it teaches them to use their skills to achieve objectives. That skill will benefit Emma all her life, long past school. That is, of course, exactly what we seek from education.

Emma is overjoyed by her success. Moreover, she is confident that she can continue. To use a metaphor, she is confident that this is not just a lucky home run.

The Arrowsmith program is neither easy nor a quick fix. The blessings of the last six months have come from years of hard work and loving attention on the path God laid out for Emma. Thanks for being there to help her along that path. We are clearly delighted by this outcome and encourage others to stay the course.

- Rob 2015