

Testimonial

Two years on and my 10 yo daughter, Toni is now onto her third book of the Harry Potter series and still to this day, I can say that during a time when I was clinging onto hope it was Tyquin who believed that Toni had the ability to overcome her reading and learning difficulties. It was Tyquin (Philip) who showed Toni and I 'the way', 'how to learn' and 'how to read'.

Before finding out about Tyquin through a friend, Toni and I were struggling on a daily basis and as a parent it was becoming increasingly difficult for me to know who to talk to, to find who would really listen to my concerns, and where I could go to find out exactly what I needed to do to help Toni to read.

At school, the information provided to me during teacher/parent interviews were often so vague and unclear and when I did ask questions in order to help me gain a clearer picture of Toni's difficulties, every teacher throughout every year level would respond similarly by saying, 'Look, don't worry, she'll get it, they all do. It will just click one day. You'll see, so don't worry too much about it okay. She'll be fine.' BUT four years later my Toni was not FINE at all. She was progressively losing her confidence because like most children she was aware of how she was not like the other kids in reading.

Toni and I would spend hours every night completing homework. I felt like I was in two completely different worlds. One world at school where I was living that dream of hope for things to 'just click' because I wanted to believe that it would, and the other world was at home at night with Toni and I struggling to read or write a sentence to get the set homework task completed before the due date. Seeing the standard task completion time for homework on her piece of paper that it should only take '10 mins' to complete would only increase my existing anxiety as it was the only gauge I had to measure where Toni was at developmentally and academically.

In the background, there were the social exclusion issues to come out from all this. At school I had overhead with my own ears a group of volunteer parents talking about which kids were smart and could read, and which kids weren't 'that smart'. It was not long after that I watched over the years to come how these same group of volunteer parents would socialise their kids with only the 'smart group of kids'.

Well I don't have to tell you what group my Toni was in.

Once I accepted that no one at the school was really listening to my concerns or took them seriously, I requested another school support meeting which again failed to produce anything positive. It was a complete waste of time.

Tyquin, what can I say except THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR TONI AND I.

Now Toni's bedroom is full of books, on her floor, on the end of her bed. They are everywhere. She even has her own library system at home and charges me for overdue fees!

Yours sincerely,

Gwen