

## Story of Seth

Working with Dr. Serrano has been one of the most beneficial experiences for both my son Seth and myself. Seth is diagnosed with Autism which is secondary to severe brain injury he suffered when he was 22 months old. After his injury, we struggled to get him into the right programs and doctors, primarily because all anyone would address was the “autism.” His needs as a child with a brain injury were never addressed despite my repeated requests. Seth is basically a kid with Autism that is not like the others because his ‘Autism’ is really brain damage. That is what a doctor said to us once.

Dr. Serrano came into our lives when Seth was 6. She was his teacher in an elementary class at a school for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The year got off to a rocky start for Seth because of some difficult behaviors. He was transferred to Dr. Serrano’s class and I wasn’t hopeful things would get better. That lasted about a week and then I was thanking my stars she was there. She took the time to learn about what was really going on with Seth, not just the diagnosis. She recognized that the traditional ABA therapy used at the school was not going to benefit my son at all. She dug into her magic “brain” and developed a very focused plan to work with Seth that placed his needs as a child with a brain injury at the top. The changes that she elicited from Seth that school year were phenomenal. He was a new kid capable of understanding and doing things we had no idea he could do. One year later, he continues to flourish and though he is not in her class, I know he wouldn’t be doing as well as he is had she not worked so hard to understand him and his needs. She worked endlessly to help Seth build the neurological foundations that he needed to really learn and understand.

Another part of Dr. Serrano that makes her such an invaluable clinician is her heart. She absolutely loves her “kids.” We called her Seth’s school mommy and it made me feel so much more confident as a parent to send him to school knowing he was going to be getting that emotional support from her. She has so much respect for us as parents and our daily struggles to manage life and our children’s needs. She was always willing to meet and talk about anything. She took the time to ask how we were doing and offer to help if we needed it. She is always looking for opportunities to learn and broaden her understanding of all things neuro-cognitive so that she can expand her repertoire of tools to work with her “kids.” I could never thank her enough for the way she helped Seth to open up and took the time to listen and to learn.

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