

# Sunflower Trust



## Testimonials from a selection of Bursary Children

*Helping children with health, behavioural  
and learning difficulties*



The Sunflower Trust

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# TESTIMONIALS



**C**onnor was experiencing serious difficulties at school and had no self confidence. He was born prematurely and has a history of problems with his hearing and eyesight. His mother, who is a single parent, spoke of the 'wonderful feeling to have the load shared and taken off my shoulders, and to see success coming.'

The effects of the Sunflower Treatment have been huge, Connor is very dyslexic but over the last year there has been a big change in his reading and writing and his confidence.

He is pictured here with his rugby medals and trophies and said, 'I wouldn't have won them if I hadn't had the help.'

**Z**ahra lives with her mother and maternal grandparents. She has a history of food allergies and of being clumsy. She was also having difficulties at school and she had been referred to an educational psychologist. She was found to be highly intelligent, but with dyslexic learning difficulties. The psychologist suggested that Zahra should apply for a Sunflower Bursary.

Zahra's mother writes, 'Tim Jewers was fantastic and soon put us at our ease. It was several months before we noticed any change. She was more confident, more relaxed. She started to concentrate in class and contribute to lessons in a meaningful way. She didn't fall over so regularly. She was praised for her gracefulness in ballet class and she passed a ballet exam! She started to read. She needed less sleep and was more active during the day. She began to enjoy school and made real friends and had the energy at last to participate and enjoy sport.

She has joined the local youth theatre and took to the stage in a riotous celebration of West End musicals. Soon she will be performing ballet and jazz dance in a modern adaptation of the Nutcracker Suite. Both events require a huge amount of concentration and energy and she would have seriously struggled this time last year. Thank you for all that you are doing.'

## FACT

In 2005, over 1.2 million children in the UK were classified as having special educational needs, meaning that they have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age

**Connor was diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome and Social Communication Disorder at 8 years old. When referred he was described as having poor fine motor skills, difficulty with school work and very argumentative.**

**Connor was given a Bursary in February 2005 and he has completed his treatment at the Reve Clinic. His mother reports that there have been improvements in attitude, in his concentration and his school work, but he still has social problems.**

# TESTIMONIALS



**W**illiam has always had a range of difficulties, particularly with concentration. He also found it difficult to maintain eye contact and was very emotional with frequent outbursts of temper. William received a Sunflower Bursary in September 2005 and was treated in Oxford at Helix House.

William's mother writes, 'I am writing to thank you most sincerely for giving my son William a bursary to enable him to receive treatment with the Sunflower programme.

'Prior to attending, William displayed a range of difficulties, which became more apparent when he started school. He had a marked lack of

concentration even at times seeming to be in a complete 'world of his own'. He needed constant prompting to stay on task in both school and homework. He had problems in socialising with his peers and he found it difficult to maintain eye contact with anyone other than close family.

From the first session William enjoyed going to Helix House and very quickly built up trust and rapport with Clive. Clive always explained exactly what he was doing and why on a level that William easily understood.' 'I started to see changes in William quite quickly. William today is a different boy. He has found new confidence, plays with other children well, maintains eye contact, volunteers conversation with adults and is generally a lot calmer. There have been improvements at school. His concentration is improving; he is above average in reading and spelling and all other subjects is comparable with his peers. I feel that the Sunflower treatment has really unlocked his potential and I am now looking forward to seeing his achievements.'

'I cannot thank you enough, because without the bursary we could not have had this wonderful opportunity. My heartfelt thanks to all at the Sunflower Trust for all your kindness and support.'

## FACT

During 1999-2002 the Sunflower Trust in conjunction with the Roehampton Institute of London co-sponsored a 3 year PhD research project on Sunflower Therapy. Results confirmed the effectiveness of Sunflower Therapy in improving the everyday lives of children with health, behavioural and learning difficulties.

**Scott is the elder of two boys.**

**He was assessed at 7 years old to have dyslexic learning difficulties. This has affected his self esteem, his confidence and his ability to cope with frustration.**

**Scott was given a bursary in 2004 and has completed his treatment.**

**The Sunflower programme helped him re-think negative thoughts into positive ones. As a family we are noticing a real improvement in his behaviour towards us. He enjoys sport. He is good with lego and anything to do with construction and would like to be a mechanic and own his own garage.**

# TESTIMONIALS

**A**lexander has been diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, speech and language difficulties and behaviour problems. At the age of 2 months Alexander had a severe reaction to his initial vaccinations and was referred to a pediatric heart specialist. Since a very young baby he has had many ear infections, eczema and asthma. When he started walking at 13 months he walked on his toes, causing him to fall over and take many knocks to his head. Alex had also been diagnosed as profoundly dyspraxic, gross and fine motor skills, low muscle tone and problems with eye focus. He received a Sunflower Bursary in May 2005 and was treated at the Reve Pavilion in Guildford. His mother said she was very pleased with the treatment. She had wonderful support from the Sunflower Trust and had total confidence in Mark (her Sunflower practitioner) and felt completely able to trust him. The treatment was the highlight of a very difficult year. Alexander has become more confident. Great improvement in his gross motor skills and he has stopped toe walking. Previously he would not go near the school climbing equipment, but after a few treatments is now

**J**ack had his first grommets at age 3, being a first child it was not picked up earlier. He needed speech therapy for a time as he also had dyspraxia. Although his school reports were always positive because he had 'a lovely nature and was keen to learn', he had a tendency to take a negative approach, using his dyspraxia as an excuse for getting out of things. Although the teachers were very good with him, the other children used to upset him about his poor writing. After treatment Jack's mother says, 'He does his homework now and is very organised about it. I don't tell him anymore. He has not been upset for a long time about his handwriting.' His mother was enthusiastic about the good results of the various Kineasthetic Exercises he had been taught. Jack is more willing to try things, in spite of being reluctant, like new foods etc. He found the diet hard, but now eats vegetables but does not like fruit! Jack is now average or above average in everything, particularly in maths, and spelling is good. He is not bottom in anything. His mother said, 'I have been passing Sunflower leaflets on to other parents ..... there are more children who need help.'



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A BRIGHTER  
FUTURE FOR  
OUR CHILDREN**