

May 13, 2010

Awards Committee:

When I first heard the word "Apraxia" I had no idea what would be in store for me, my family, or my then almost 3 year old son. I remember the day vividly as I attended his social group, as one of his pre-school teachers told me that she believes Hudson has "Apraxia of Speech". She then proceeded to explain that "Hudson would never be a lawyer, a doctor, anything that has to do with communication as he is going to struggle for the rest of his life." As I sat there numb, my eyes swelling with tears I tried to grasp what my son's future held. Immediately I started researching "Apraxia" trying to find the best resource for Hudson's condition. After reading Paula Herrington's bio and her mission statement on their website www.Classinc.net, I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt this is where Hudson needed to be.

My husband and I met Paula for a consultation and a complete peace come over me as she explain to us that "Hudson can be whatever he wants to be and Apraxia isn't going to change that". I left that day with a sense of HOPE! After months of therapy and finding out our insurance will not cover any services we were blessed to have Paula come up with ways we can help Hudson at home. She and her staff met with me, set up homework, basic things to assist Hudson.

Paula continually emailed to see how he was doing and if progress was being made. She then had a student intern for her Masters come in January of 2010 and graciously opened up a spot for Hudson to attend a session every week for nearly 5 months free of charge. Paula worked closely with the intern to make sure Hudson was making progress and she set goals for Hudson to work on. She truly has a heart and passion for helping all kids and not everyone in the "speech" business does so she truly is a BLESSING!!!

After a year of working with Class Inc. Hudson is discovering his voice and I have heard "mama" for the first time just this year. I can't explain the feeling of having a resource that's main concern is helping Hudson. Paula has been an answered prayer to my family and I know that one day I will be writing on CASNA's site the amazing conversations Hudson and I are having and we owe them all to Paula Herrington and Class, Inc.

Sincerely,



Shaunda Groce