

Conor's Story

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I met with Conor, a 16 year old boy, at my office for treatment.

Conor was born with learning differences and had severe brain inflammation in 2001. He lost the use of his left side and underwent brain surgery to rule out a tumor. He had fairly good motion in his left leg but limited movement in his left arm.

The first week we worked with the Grasp Reflex. He had a difficult time doing the Sequential Fingers Opening and Closing postures, especially with his left hand. After working with the Grasp Reflex, Conor immediately noticed a difference in his left hand. In the post-activity, he could do all of the finger postures in half the time – and accurately. As we walked out of the office, his mother and I noticed that his speech was clearer – no stuttering at all. This was amazing.

The next week we reviewed the Hand Grasp and he was excellent at all postures. He had noticed increased mobility and strength in his left hand.

At his request to work with lower limbs, we worked on his feet with the Babinski Reflex. As we were working, he told me that his brain was “getting smarter.” Just after we completed the exercise, he told of a dialog that he was processing in his mind about the five elements, and said, “Wood, Tam, what’s wood about?” I told him that ‘wood’ or ‘tree’ in ancient philosophies is about transformation, changes, and choices. He replied, “Oh yeah, that’s it, Transformation. We need to transform the left side of my body.” I looked at his mother and asked how he knew to ask about ‘wood’. She said he didn’t know about any interpretation of this to her knowledge.

After the session, he asked if he could draw me a picture of what he had learned for the day. He drew the massage table and his body on the table. Next he drew his feet.

“When you worked on my feet, it made my brain smarter. Then, when you expanded my feet, it activated my hand on the same side, oh, and woke up my knees.”

Then he drew two large pea-like objects at the top of his head.

“My brain split into two halves. I could feel the right side of my brain when you expanded my left foot. And I felt the left side when you worked on my right foot.”

Then he drew a large circle around the center of his body. He was searching for a word to name it. He finally pointed to the center of his body and asked me what this was called. I told him that I often refer to this part as the core, to which he replied, “Oh, the core. Yes, core activation.”

I kept checking with his mother to see if ‘expansion’ and ‘activation’ were words that he typically used. She had used the word ‘activate’ with him occasionally, but never ‘expansion’ or ‘activation’ or talk about brain



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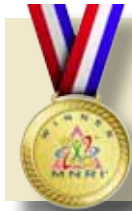
hemispheres. It's amazing how work with the body and its functions awaken the language and expressive possibilities of our own feelings and sensations!

Conor's mother's response to the changes in him is, "...people can find it far-fetched. Still, yes, it really did happen that way, but it's almost too much to be believed. The week after the first session of reflex integration, Conor was able to alphabetize and shelve in half the time at his volunteer job at the Public Library. During his swim lesson, he swam across the width of the pool for the first time. (He's been in swim lessons for 4½ years.)

The week after the second session, Conor spent the entire swim lesson in the deep end of the pool and swam the width again. He played basketball last night better than he has ever performed. He even used his left hand a few times during the basketball scrimmage. As we drove to basketball he told me he wanted to work on his pronunciation and began reading the words on signs, enunciating the sounds. He has moved to new levels on the video games he plays."

I did the Hands Grasp and foot Babinski exercises with him yesterday in one of our sessions and his sensory-motor training was amazingly successful.

Conor is turning 16 and big successes in neurodevelopment are opening for him. Kids often go through emotional/physical growth around the time of their birthday but Conor's improvements, up to this point, have surpassed anything I've seen before as a professional in my area.



It is with great pride and humble heart that I thank you for the experience we had together, opening up new wisdom in Conor's body. I continue to marvel at the power of this work and the gifts that it brings to recipients and practitioners alike. Thank you for trusting me in this marvelous process, and for reflecting the insights that will have great impact on others. You, Conor, are a brave young man and I cherish the time we have spent together. – Fondly, Tamlyn Hedemann