

Why are my kids struggling academically?

By Calista Johnson – Mum of Layla & Ellie

Like any parent, I want to see my children succeed in life. I know they are fit and healthy and far from unintelligent, yet they didn't seem to be keeping up at school. As both my girls were falling behind academically, I knew I needed to get help for them.

That's when I discovered the Alison Lawson treatment.

At a Parent-Teacher meeting we were told not to worry that our children didn't excel in reading and writing, instead they'd encourage what they were interested in and hope the rest would follow. This wasn't the answer; I knew they could do better.

THE STRUGGLE

Both my girls, Layla (9) and Ellie (7), were experiencing similar learning difficulties. They started out fine in kindergarten but by year 1 were showing signs of struggle. They experienced difficulty with reading and writing but also with concentration and organisation. When reading, they would skip lines, re-read lines, miss words, and add words in. They had poor letter formation when writing and Ellie would even reverse some letters and numbers. Ellie hated going to school and the mornings were turning into a fighting match. Then trying to concentrate on homework after school, they would say "I'm dumb" or "I can't do it". Homework was becoming a nightmare! Their struggles with school were causing high levels of anxiety.

I tried many things to help my girls. They were prescribed glasses for tracking by a behavioural optometrist but these only worked in the beginning. Testing with a speech therapist revealed that they both had Auditory Processing Disorder. They then started a computer program for this but both hated it and we eventually gave up on it. I had been told that I should just give it time. I knew I didn't have time - they had both already lost their confidence.

We were half-way through the year when I came across the Alison Lawson Centre. The website had lots of information and testimonials from people who had done the treatment. Considering that some of the testimonials were similar to what my girls were going through, I called the centre to speak to a therapist. I decided to book them both in for assessments. I felt that we didn't have much to lose.

The assessments took roughly an hour each to complete. Interestingly, the assessment found that although my girls were both dominant on their right hand sides, they were both using their left eye. Further testing in the assessment showed that this was because their right eye was not working correctly, causing incorrect messages to be sent to the brain. This, along with

many of the other tests, was the convincing evidence I needed, and I booked the girls in for treatment.

10 TREATMENT SESSIONS

The actual treatment time was just under an hour. Layla and Ellie both loved their therapists and really enjoyed the treatments. Each night there was homework to complete and eye exercises to do. This was more challenging than the treatment because you had to make time to do them properly. Layla didn't have much difficulty with the homework but Ellie resented it at first. After a few days, they both got used to it and started enjoying homework! This was a relief as the homework is definitely an important part of the course.

As they progressed through the treatment, I started to notice changes. Both were reading with less difficulty and understanding it! They were actually starting to enjoy reading. Copying became quicker and spelling was improving. But the biggest thing was the increasing confidence. They started having a go, instead of giving up.

12 MONTHS ON

Before treatment, my girls couldn't read a short sentence fluently. It was like a robot reading and by the end of the sentence they had forgotten what they read. Now, they are reading whole books on their own! They can't stop reading! Both girls asked for books every time we go to the shops. All Ellie's headaches have disappeared and Ellie happily goes to school and loves it! Both girls are now much more confident in all areas and I love watching them enjoying reading.

See Layla and Ellie's videos at www.myalc.com.au



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The quick and effective Alison Lawson treatment, for school aged children through to adults, has been used for over 30 years. The team have had first-hand experience in giving numerous children a brand new start in life with the Alison Lawson treatment and have a burning desire to pass these benefits to so many others, as they are seeing parents and teachers astounded over and over again.