

Case Study – The Listening Program®

Mary Clare, Age 2 years 10 months, Bilateral Occipital Stroke

Submitted by: Mary L. Padula, MA, CCC/SLP

Name: Mary Clare

Gender: Female

Chronological Age: 2.10 years

Clinical Diagnosis: Bilateral Occipital Stroke

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mary C. is one of twins born via emergency caesarian section due to pre-maturity. At 7½ weeks she developed strep B meningitis resulting in a bilateral occipital stroke with right side damage. She became hydrocephalic with shunt placement at 8 weeks of age. Traditional physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy were initiated by 3 months of age. Hearing is within normal limits and traditional therapists reported “left side lock”. Mom reported that Mary C. was a healthy child without ear infections.

TREATMENT

By 16 months of age, following 13 months of therapy, Mary C. was still unable to hold her head up, sit up, was completely dependant on mom for mobility, and had minimal to no speech sounds. No changes were reported since the initiation of therapy, and mother sought out a new therapy team. At 16 months, Mary C. began with an occupational therapist that provided cranio-sacral therapy, and a physical therapist who understood sensory processing disorders and neurodevelopment theory. I began providing consultative speech and language therapy for Mary C. at 18 months of age.

PRE-LISTENING

Non-ambulatory without any initiated movement, left side use when prompted, non-verbal, poor focus and lack of interest in others conversation, although very interested in what others played. Play consisted of picking up a toy, looking at it, minimal to no motor plan for play.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION/CHANGES

In November, 2004, Mary C. began preparatory listening over speakers using TLP Full Spectrum Prelude 1 for two modules (6 tracks) per day.

By April, 2005, she began listening over speakers to the Sensory Integration Kids CD, and with this disc she began to crawl. Her PT was shocked that she began crawling “overnight”, and her mother stated the same. She had been struggling with crawling for months, appearing to be at a standstill, not wanting to move her left side.

We continued with speaker listening, 6 tracks per day varying the bi-weekly use of Full Spectrum Prelude 1, Sensory Integration Kids and Sensory Integration Classic until August, 2005 (when Mary C. was 28 months of age). At this point, Mary C. showed signs of being able to sit with headsets as noted by her focus and attention during the session, along with the increased cranial rhythm throughout the tissue surrounding the cranial bones and sutures.

It was in August, 2005, that we started the TLP Classic Kit, following the Extended Schedule with Mary C. (to my lack of knowledge, mom was using a poor quality CD player and headsets for this first cycle of TLP) Even with this, Mary C. was responsive from the start, with minimal challenges with headphone use. It should be noted that there was sensitivity around the shunt, but she worked through this well with mom's coercing within the first 3 discs.

CD 1: Mary C. began standing at the bed in the morning waiting for mom for the first time, started walking by holding her hand, showed global increase in movement, and increase in verbal productions such as "oh", singing and playing with her voice. Also noted was improved self confidence.

CD 2: Began matching tones of voice more accurately, increased independence and self confidence in her movement, making more sounds with her mouth and increased oral movements. OT and PT said, "Keep up the CD work"!

CD 3: Increased upright posture, physical coordination improved, singing and vocal play increased with improved productions. More appropriate interactions with adults. Mom reported the biggest change was that every time she went to find Mary C. she was standing up somewhere! PT was ecstatic because Mary C. was standing 50% of her day (a goal met quicker than expected). Mom wrote, "What awesome changes!" Increased vocabulary, Mary C. began nodding her head "no" and moving her head for "yes". Noted new sounds and mouth movements, along with improved cooperation with her headphones.

CD 4: Improved attention span, and began using signs that were taught to her as a baby, but not followed through at that time. Pulling herself up everywhere.

CD 5: Began playing tea party by herself, playing with more sounds. Increase in babbling and appropriate intonation patterns, although articulation is a challenge. Strong attempts at verbal imitation.

CD 6: Began to whisper on request, changes in facial expression show improved self-confidence. Improved focus as noted by watching a TV program for the first time ever (30 minutes). More motivated, improved attention, and increased vocabulary, increased use of babbling sounds "yaya", 'mmmmm', rounding her lips for blowing. She is walking 5-6 steps independently after independently standing from a sitting position. Walking up and down the PT stairs, and 7 minutes on the treadmill (baseline 2 minutes 5 weeks ago). PT is ecstatic and says, "Keep up the CD work".

CD 7: Marked improvement in trying to imitate words, and independently use words. Intelligibility still inhibited by oral motor coordination.

CD 8: Remained status quo.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Using TLP Classic Kit, following the Extended Schedule, Mary C. made strides that mom, PT, OT, and SLP report were faster than the typical progression of therapy. Mary C. is now walking independently stable, vocalizing for all wants, needs, and comments, is interested in pretend play and adult interaction. Her verbal speech patterns are at the 2-3 word phrases level, although intelligibility is poor due to oral motor dyspraxia. Her focus has improved to learn not only new play schemes, but the rules for oral motor planning of speech patterns. Mary C. is able to follow verbal direction not only surrounding play schemes, but oral motor planning (such as, put your lips together, use your teeth, push your air). She is happy, confident and proud of her accomplishments in these 16 weeks, as are we, her therapists. As her PT said continually throughout the entire first cycle, "Keep up the CD work"

FOLLOW-UP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mary C. has already begun her second cycle of TLP Classic Kit. This cycle will be implemented using the Base Schedule, given that she had no residual effects on any disc, and that she made profound changes with each disc. For this cycle she is using quality Grado SR-80 headsets, and Sony CD player. At this writing, I have not seen Mary C. since the introduction of Cycle 2.

DISCUSSION

This case study shows the importance of treating the whole child, and how the auditory system has a global affect on the physical motor and oral motor systems. Mary C., when receiving traditional therapy made no changes in 13 months. When she was introduced to a holistic approach to therapy with cranio-sacral first, and then followed by TLP Music-Based Auditory Stimulation™, her changes were rapid and qualitative. This is a testament to early intervention, and the effect of auditory development through the use of The Listening Program® on the whole child.

LETTER FROM MOM

To Whom It May Concern:

Let me tell you how your product The Listening Program® (8 disc set) has helped my daughter. Mary C. has been in therapy since she left the hospital with Group B Strep Meningitis on the Fourth of July 2003. Our life is consumed with O.T., P.T. and Speech. It seems that everything we do is therapeutic. Since the beginning, Mary C. has always progressed forward with her therapies, and so far, has not plateaued, as some said she may. Her accomplishments were small, and we continued with the therapies until her O.T. relocated too far from us and, as my husband likes to say "she was kicked out of P.T.". It was agony for both of us. In June of 2004, I hooked up with a terrific O.T., who in turn helped me put a therapy team together that we hand picked. I assumed "birds of a feather flocked together". Boy was I right.

Things were moving along much better and Mary C. had an excellent rapport with all her therapists. Mary was progressing with a better attitude, until her speech therapist started her on TLP. At first over a loud speaker, and then with a pair of headsets. That is when we started to see profound leaps forward. I guess the biggest reaction came from her P.T., who was not familiar with this, or any, listening program. Each week I saw her get more and more excited and blown away with Mary C.'s progress and accomplishments. When she would ask what I was doing, I would tell her about The Listening Program. She would say, "Just keep using the CD's". I can remember asking her in Aug. 2005 if she thought Mary C. would be walking by Christmas, and she said that maybe by Christmas she would be able to walk across the room, but by springtime, she should be walking. So that is what I set my sights on. Well, she progressed so fast that by about Dec. 28, 2005 she started walking on her own, without the use of her walker. What a Christmas gift from God—to have a walking child! And what a wonderful compliment from her P.T., when she said that in all her 20+ years of working as a therapist, she has never seen a child progress so quickly and master so much in such a short time.

Along with her P.T., her O.T. is equally excited, but sort of expected these results because she is familiar with your products. Mary C. has also made astounding strides in O.T. and speech, but I understand that these are the two areas that will need the most work, and could potentially take several years to correct.

I have to tell you that your products are truly the easiest "therapy" we do in our day, and I find myself disappointed when I am putting disc 6 or 7 in the CD player, because I know we are nearing the end of the 8 disc set.

I believe that you're The Listening Program has helped Mary C.'s cognitive skills develop and also helped her to express her intelligence to me. Somehow I always knew by a mother's intuition that Mary C. was intelligent. And it makes me feel that it is all worth it when I see her self confidence and her pride in her own accomplishments.

*When I left the hospital with my tiny baby "cured" of the meningitis, the doctors told me that she could be blind, deaf, handicapped and in a wheel chair, OR she could walk with a limp and wear glasses, or anywhere in between. I can truly say thanks to God, her therapists, and your products, that her limp will be minimal and I hope she has good taste in eye glass frames.
All My Thanks,*

Lucy A. Greaney

End of Case Study

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