

CASE STUDY SAMPLE

Milestones Learning Centers

NOTE: This sample represents spec text only.

The Challenge: Jason's Falling Grades

When Jason Purdue flunked his science test, his mother wasn't worried. After all, fifth grade is tough, and everyone struggles now and then. Jason was happy and well adjusted, an avid soccer player and a great kid. But then he flunked his math test. And his language arts test. Suddenly his grades had slipped from a B+ average to a D. What had happened to smart, outgoing Jason?

"Some years he's needed more attention than the school can provide," says his mother, Jeanine Purdue. "We always managed to help him catch up. But when he got to fifth grade, the work overwhelmed him. He was in trouble."

At the Purdues' parent conference in October, Jason's teacher expressed her concern. "He wasn't doing too badly when we were reviewing our fourth-grade material," admits teacher Pat Summerton, "but once we started new material, Jason couldn't keep up. He hadn't mastered the basics like addition facts."

His reading skills hampered him even further. Jason was unable to read basic word problems, and studying his science book was slow work. Even when he could decode the words, his comprehension lagged behind his peers. "Where he should have been reading 100 words a minute, Jason was reading more like fifty," says his mother.

The Solution: The Teachers at Milestones

At first, Jason's parents resisted the idea of employing a tutor from Milestones Learning Center. "What could they do that the school personnel hadn't tried already?" wondered his father, John Purdue. "But we were amazed."

Through Milestones' intensive twelve-week program, Jason was first given a battery of tests to assess his needs. Then Paul Prentiss emerged as the tutor who was the best fit for Jason. Like all Milestones tutors, he's a certified teacher with a wealth of career experience. "Plus, I'm a soccer fan too, so we connected right away," Prentiss says.

Prentiss conferenced with the Purdues and the classroom teacher. Together they drew up a customized plan to address Jason's most serious needs. It was important to Paul that his work not deprive Jason of his interests, so he made sure to work in tutoring sessions around the soccer schedule. Twice a week, Prentiss gave Jason the one-on-one attention he needed, through the latest developments in educational training.

“We use a wealth of resources—computer exercises, manipulatives, games, and incentive charts as well as the traditional paper-and-pencil worksheets,” says Prentiss. “This makes learning varied and fun for kids. We apply techniques to real life situations. I could see that Jason was smart—he had just fallen behind.” Paul was able to become a helpful, nonjudgmental presence in Jason’s life and even provided his parents with access to other community resources they might want to take advantage of.

The Results

In January, Pat Summerton requested another conference with Jason’s parents—this time to deliver good news. Jason’s math grade had risen from a D average to a B-. His reading scores had soared; Summerton predicted that he would soon be reading at grade level.

John Purdue was impressed. “What we love about Milestones is that they address the whole child—not just his math grades or his reading speed, but his emotional needs too. And they provided us with tools to keep it going. They educated all of us, not just Jason.” With that information in hand, Jason went on to finish his fifth-grade year with a B average. Milestones gave him the tools he needed to succeed not just in school, but in life.

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