

## The Inspiring Success Story of Lily

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Lily Grace Colonnese was born thirteen weeks early on September 15, 2003. That made her a 27-week preemie. She weighed 1.9 lbs. and was 13 inches long. Her APGAR score was 8. She was ventilated immediately and was admitted to the NICU for respiratory distress, sepsis, and prematurity. Her other diagnoses while in the NICU included Stridor, Chronic Lung Disease, Patent Ductus Arteriosus-Indocin, pneumonia (twice), Anemia of Prematurity, IVH Grade 1, Apnea, Neurologic, Gastroesophageal Reflux, Inguinal Hernia, Hyperbilirubinemia, Retinopathy of Prematurity, and vocal cord paralysis. She was reintubated over a dozen times. Lily had surgery to repair the hernia, a Nissen fundoplication to help stop the reflux, and a g-tube (feeding tube) placement all at one time.



Diane Colonnese



Pamela Curlee

Because of the reintubation, Lily still has a subglottic stenosis scar which makes her airway the size of a coffee straw as compared to a regular sized straw. She also has reactive airway disease because of this scarring under her vocal cords. She suffers with croup anytime her airway is inflamed (from a cold or allergies), screaming too loud, or coughing too much.

Lily had a severe Sensory Processing Disorder after being born so early and being in the NICU for over four months. She would jolt as if an electric current was flowing through her when she was touched. She would scream and cry about anything different in her environment. Sight, sound, and touch were painful to her. She was very developmentally delayed across the board. Her language, fine motor, and gross motor were all very delayed.



Lily at age 7.

We had Lily in all therapies the second week home from the hospital. She received Early Childhood Intervention at home and then we took her to private therapists. We tried everything and she was still so little (12 pounds at 1 year), so sick (her immune system was non-existent), so delayed, and had such severe sensory problems. We didn't know where to turn.

Our friend, Chuck H., knew Pamela Curlee and he was excited to share with us that Pamela was working with a gifted woman from Poland. We learned that she had just recently started to come to the United States to begin her work here. He told us that if anybody could help Lily, it would be Dr. Svetlana Masgutova, because her work was

unique and was based on years of experience with children all over the world. We later learned that her work was actually based on her experience with working with children and adults who had survived traumatic catastrophes. Our Lily was a survivor of birth trauma and needed this special work offered by the woman who had pioneered her work using the concept of Neurosensorimotor Reflex Integration.

*March 2005, Little Rock, AR, age 18 months*

We immediately began to establish the link to get Lily to be seen by Dr. Masgutova. Lily was 18 months old. She was not able to sit with stability, crawl properly, walk, talk, eat, or leave the house, except for therapies and doctor appointments. She was so sick all the time.

Our friend Rick M. was able to get funding together to fly Svetlana and Pamela to our house in Arkansas, and they worked on Lily for 2 days.

My husband, Gary, and I are normally hesitant to let a stranger into our house, let alone to work on our precious daughter, but the minute we met them, we were at peace. They came in the middle of the night and were going to work on Lily while she was asleep. Well, Lily woke up, but instead of being frightened, she looked like she was having a party. She clapped and smiled and watched Elmo while they worked on her. The first thing they did was to work with her breathing reflex pattern which was under stress. Dr. Masgutova worked with precision with the various aspects of this reflex and Lily responded very well. The next day they showed us how to repattern and activate reflexes like the Babinski and the Foot Tendon Guard, Trunk Extension, and Spinal Perez Reflex. It seemed as if this work with the Masgutova Method® was able to awaken so many things that were missing inside of her body. Lily's body responded with incredible speed within two days.

Before this work, when people would pick her up and then try to put her down, she would pick up her legs and never tried to stand on them. Following the short time with Dr. Masgutova, she was able to extend herself in accordance with the Trunk Extension Reflex which was finally emerging with over a year's delay. Prior to MNRI®, Lily had only been crawling with a half crawl and she could not stand alone. She was significantly developmentally delayed and had begun her modified crawl when she was around a year in age. After this work, a more solid cross-lateral crawl began to emerge, serving as the foundation for walking.

Lily climbing rocks with Dr. Svetlana, Pamela, and Mom.



Lily learning to crawl, above, and, below, learning to stand.



Lily had never stood before. After 2 days, she stood on her own for only a few seconds, but it seemed like a miracle. Dr. Masgutova and Pamela took her outside and activated numerous reflexes by carrying Lily in different postures, letting her play in the leaves and the dirt at the park. They even had her climbing a rock 'mountain'.

Lily could not sit until she was over one year of age. She did not use her left hand at all, only her right hand. So if she fell over while sitting, she had no protection to prevent herself from falling down. Following the use of the Masgutova Method, she started learning how to stack blocks with her left hand.

We continued to work on Lily, mainly while she was asleep, and Lily had so many significant changes that continued. Working with the sounds of animals, I was able to also make a connection of many of the sounds of phonemes with her as well. Within three months of Dr. Masgutova's visit, she had a 500-word vocabulary. Lily had no speech or language prior to this work.

Lily was feeling better too. Her sensory system began to improve and she was then able to walk in the grass barefoot without screaming.

*Age 22 months*

The second time we saw Dr. Masgutova was in Austin, TX in July 2005. Following this session, Lily grew 2 inches very quickly. She was also talking, singing, and laughing with deep belly laughs! Lily's physical skills

## REFLEXES OF THE BRAIN



Lily learning to walk.

continued to blossom following this second session. She ran barefoot across the back yard (this is the child who couldn't even pull herself up or walk 4 months prior!). The backyard even had a small hill that she ran up and down. She loved to talk and sing. She knew all the kid's songs and could spell her name. We still have the video of her doing these things!

*Age 2 ½ years and beyond*

In Florida, Dr. Masgutova did a great deal of work integrating reflexes. She worked with Lily in the water using her Aqua-Reflex Integration Therapy. After her work in Florida, Lily's intellect started to blossom. Her reading was incredible, as was her vocabulary. Her sensory integration was excellent and we used Embracing Squeeze a lot. As her speech emerged she would not say things like "look at the doggie," instead, she would say "look at the Dalmatian." (She knew all the breeds of dogs and has always called them by their correct title....she never used the phrase "doggie"). At the age 2, she would count out loud to 25 as we were shopping or checking out of a store. Also at that age, she would hold a pencil and try to write.

At the age of 3 years, she started taking ballet lessons. A home video of her performing a dance at the age of 4 shows her off her toes and moving solidly on her feet.



Lily busy as a toddler.

We also had the honor of having Dr. Masgutova work with Lily when she was 3½ (after which Lily stopped walking on her toes), 5½, and age 7. We continued working with over a dozen reflexes, especially the Babinski and Tendon Guard for many years. We did Embracing Squeeze daily. We also worked a lot around her jaw, neck, ears, shoulders and ribs – all as demonstrated by Dr. Masgutova. In pre-school her handwriting and focus greatly improved. We did not tell the therapist that we had been to see Dr. Masgutova and the therapist commented on the great changes she was noticing. I, as the mother, had watched Lily in pre-school

one week and when I went back to help in class 3 weeks later. I could also see visible improvements!

Lily is now 10 years old and just took a test to get into a prestigious school in Dallas. She excelled on the entrance exam and ended in the 98% of aptitude. Her social and academic skills are excellent. We are currently working to begin piano lessons, based on the insistence of a piano teacher who declares that Lily "is a natural". When in dance lessons now, the other children watch her and learn the movements from her. She has a great attitude, is social, and sweet as well as beautiful inside and out. And, clearly, she loves Dr. Svetlana!

As a follow up, we just saw a developmental doctor in the developmental clinic at Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas. The doctor could not believe how well Lily is doing based on her history. She asked me how her language and development was so good. I told her that the Masgutova Method® was what we used. She had heard of it and was very interested in learning more after seeing Lily.



Lily receiving MNRI® session. Lily said, "Is this what you did to wake up my body when you came to my house and I was little?"



*Lily, we are so grateful that we have had the honor of knowing you and your extraordinary Mom and Dad! You inspire us all with the blossoming of your innate wisdom and intelligence and we wish you the greatest fullness and enrichment of life! We know you will continue to be a Winner, again and again. – InJoy, Pamela Curlee*