

## Ethan Catches Up

Laura Carlson, Parent, Mankato, MN, USA



The Masgutova Method® has given Ethan an openness for learning that he may have never achieved, or achieved this quickly, had we not started this journey. By age 3, it was clear to me that Ethan was displaying many symptoms that were cause for concern – lack of eye contact, hand flapping, never crawling, delayed speech, foggy awareness of surroundings, meltdowns, and an overall general unhappiness. On the contrary, Ethan also had periods where his symptoms were mild and his struggles went unnoticed or were mistaken for discipline and behavior issues, laziness, tiredness, lack of attention or simply 'quirky' hand flapping. We soon discovered Ethan did indeed qualify for a diagnosis of PDD-NOS with Anxiety Disorder and jumped immediately on the path of biomedical intervention.



Laura Carlson

MNRI® was mentioned to us in passing by Ethan's biomedical doctor and I was fortunate enough to connect with a parent in Minnesota who had traveled to Poland for a few family camps. Because Ethan was so high functioning, there were very few traditional therapies that seemed a good fit for us or affected his body deep enough to enhance social and emotional growth. Despite his diagnosis, it had been difficult to even qualify Ethan for additional services through the school district. Ethan had a year left of preschool and I was very concerned about his social, emotional, and cognitive development heading into kindergarten. He was lagging behind the development of his peers and beginning to show more and more frustration. It was as if there was something blocking his brain from allowing information to absorb fluidly.



Ethan in TaekwonDo class.

As I researched MNRI®, the concept of reflex integration resonated with me most notably because Ethan had either been delayed, or missed completely, developmental motor milestones such as sucking, rolling, and crawling. Looking back, I now believe Ethan was working extremely hard and expending extensive amounts of energy to compensate for his body's lack of foundational reflexes and doing such a good job that for the first few years of his life even the pediatrician was not concerned! With no prior experience in MNRI®, we decided to attend our first Family Conference when Ethan was 4½ years old.

Following his MNRI® Assessment, we could now see where his body was



Ethan with his family.

not properly processing input for learning and growth. Armed with that knowledge, Ethan and I got to work on a Home Program that included 45 minutes a day, 5 days a week and a monthly check-in with a Core Specialist for the next seven months. These were intense months fitting in therapy with the rest of daily life. Finding time to do the techniques and figure out how to get Ethan to cooperate may have even been harder than learning the techniques. Fortunately, the rewards spoke for themselves. As preschool progressed, Ethan's special education teachers noticed his social and emotional regulation and motor skills growing by leaps and bounds. Ethan was now processing and absorbing information at a faster level than ever before. By the end of the year, Ethan was academically

and cognitively functioning at a level equal to that of his peers and more importantly, he was growing confidence in his own body's ability to TRY and be successful at new tasks!

While our journey continues, I feel as though we have discovered a foundational piece of the puzzle in allowing Ethan to function at his best level. There is no question in my mind that we have stumbled upon a program that allows traditional therapies to work better and faster or will eventually even change their future trajectories! We look back at our first year using MNRI® with appreciation and gratitude and look forward to watching the MNRI® program develop to its full potential and our Ethan right along with it. Thank you, thank you!



*Ethan, you are such a great and lovely personality! We congratulate you and your parents for all the achievements in learning that you have reached – like memorizing and actively thinking! These achievements show you are strong and talented. Great thanks to your Mom and Dad for their optimism and faith in you, Ethan. And thank you for bringing us this story which can be an example of hope and action for so many kids. We wish your family future success! – MNRI® Team*