

Silas Shows a Skill He's Never Shown Before!

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We are just back from an amazing and life changing clinic and are ready to walk this new and exciting road on Silas' Journey! There were so many feelings going into this new experience: curious, excited, nervous, and ready for information overload!

As we had already started down this road earlier in the year doing the Brain Gym® work with Silas' therapist Jean, I never really grasped how life changing it would and could be. It really took this week to 'sell' me on this Masgutova Method® and really seal the deal! And boy, am I glad we went because I am 100% a fan of this work! And I will URGE other special needs families to look into this. Before we went into our first session I didn't know what to expect. I had asked other parents who have their children involved to see what may come out of this clinic and they said it could be physical, behavioral, and emotional but it really depends on the child and how they react to it. I knew going in that sleep was a big struggle for us lately and I was hoping to see change in this area. I was also hoping to see Silas show a skill he has never shown before. As we walked into our first day of clinic, I became so excited to see what this new therapy was all about. We worked with an amazing Core Specialist, Mary, who Silas responded so well to. She has a very calm soul and you can just tell how dedicated and interested she is in this work. I won't go into using all of the terms that they use because they are very confusing and hard to understand, but I will tell you the gist of what happened.

During Silas' evaluation by Dr. Svetlana Masgutova he showed many things and revealed secrets! Dr. Masgutova was able to tell that Silas is a very intelligent child with a huge potential for speech. We told Silas that his secret was out and he better start piping up with some of those words he's hiding! Silas showed potential in many areas and, although a lot of his body is still so affected by his brain injury (especially his right side) and traumatizing birth, he still has the ability to build those skills and reach goals. We will have to work very hard with him but the more we work, the faster we will see the change. Sometimes it is within minutes, sometimes overnight, and sometimes change will take longer. Dr. Svetlana stressed the benefit of tummy time for Silas and how to achieve the best results when doing tummy time. She showed us the big areas to work on with Silas, a lot of which we have already been working on, and some new things. When she finished her evaluation, Mary finished her session and we were on our way. I was overwhelmed but so excited!



Matthew, Melissa, and Silas Brown

photo by Jennifer & Michael Moore Photography

We continued therapy on Silas that day totaling about 5-6 hours of therapy! Jean and Stephanie worked very hard with Silas and he barely cried. His body loves this work! Silas was so exhausted from all the therapy he fell asleep around 8 that night (normally he stays up until 10 pm.). He slept so well that night, we even had to wake him in the morning! Already a positive change! The next day we went in for our second session. Mary could already see changes in Silas' body. His muscles and reflexes were responding quicker with less delay and he was more flexible and open to stretching.

Then Dr. Svetlana came in to work with Silas. So many wonderful things happened during this session including getting Silas into Hands Supporting position where he was bearing weight on his hands and knees! His arms were straight and he was bearing weight mostly on his left arm all by himself! He held it for about ten seconds! This is huge! Silas' therapists have been trying for almost TWO YEARS to get him to do this and Dr. Svetlana had him in this position within minutes! How do you explain this? This work is incredible! And with happy news came homework for us, of course. We were told that Silas' addiction to his iPad was not good for him. That his addiction was to the screen with flashing lights and that wasn't good for his brain. I mean. . .we knew this would be an issue. I had made a monster out of my child with this iPad! We needed to wean him off of this. SO we went back downstairs and continued therapy with him. This time without his iPad. He was to only have it if he worked hard and was cooperating. We were no longer able to use this to break his temper tantrums. He could only have it if he understood that when he stopped crying then he could see it. But even so he could only have a story read to him on it, no more TV shows. Matt and I were very skeptical since we used his iPad all day every day to entertain him. Silas whined for a while and eventually forgot about it.

We took the kids out on a nature walk and Silas, even four hours without his iPad, was so much more alert and open to exploring his world around him. No longer stuck with his face in a screen. Of course, I scolded myself as his parent, thinking I was a bad Mom for letting him get so addicted to this possession. But knowing that I was really trying to break him from this habit made me feel that much better about it. For the rest of the day he had no iPad and was happy doing his therapy with Steph and Jean. He was rewarded once at the end of the day but didn't show interest in it. That night he slept better than ever again. We had to wake him the next morning as well!

He had his final session that day and did more amazing things! Showing better head control and no delay in some of his muscles and reflexes! He had the iPad once the entire session but other than that, he did not use it and did amazing! Matt and I were dreading the ride home seeing as we absolutely depended on his iPad to entertain him during the car rides, but he did amazing! He slept and, when awake, he interacted and cooed at us in pure happiness! His iPad addiction was cured! Thank the Lord!

We left the clinic with so many new feelings. Although we were so incredibly happy and amazed with our experience we were also very confused. We needed to make some very important decisions for Silas now. Will he continue with his OT and PT? Do we still put him in his stander? After parenting Silas one way for 2½ years, we have been shown a new way of healing, one that didn't involve



Silas today.



Progress for Silas during a Family Conference: truly amazing ... a Core Specialist was working with Silas and focused on 1) Foot Tendon Guard for all the toes and for the big toe with inhibition, for his foot with inhibition, 2) metatarsis techniques - stretching between digits, 3) big toe rotation for the foot tendon with a more intense stretch, and 4) Babinski Reflex. Repatterning was also done repeating some of those reflexes. . .and it worked!

bracing and equipment to help Silas learn to reach his goals, but instead a very alternative method which actually makes much more sense! So here we are. Completely changing Silas' weekly schedule. Having to let therapists go sadly, and welcome this new beginning into his world. But at the end of the day I know I am doing what is best for him. He has already shown so much growth, his body absolutely loves this therapy and we are so thankful and feel so lucky to have found this for Silas at such a young age where his brain and body is still so open to healing and change.

I cannot thank everyone enough for helping us to get here. We will continue to fundraise for Silas, and unfortunately, will probably always have to fundraise for him. This therapy is not covered by insurance and is very pricey but we will not let the obstacle of money get in the way of Silas' healing because he deserves this!

I am also happy to say that, as of this morning, Silas is bolus feeding for the first time since he got his feeding tube! We have never been able to successfully bolus feed Silas. This is huge and means he will no longer have to be hooked to his feeding bag 24/7. Silas will also be able to feel the sensation of hunger and food filling his stomach! Big things are happening out here and we will share with you every step of the way! Thank you so much to the Svetlana Masgutova Educational Institute for changing our lives! Here is the start to an amazing new chapter in Silas' Journey! We are looking to go with Silas in the spring to an 8-day or 6-day intensive Family Conference where we would endure 6 hours of therapy every day with Core Specialists and Svetlana. Because, as Dr. Svetlana said within the first ten minutes of meeting Silas, "I want to see this kid in conference!" She also said that the progress Silas showed during clinic is equal to that gained in 7-8 months time frame! SO here's to getting to a Conference this spring!



Silas in late 2014.



The positive changes in Silas are growing with the highest speed we can imagine... He is an example of how keys for reflex integration can change so many aspects of our being! There are still many challenges in Silas' life but we know that he will reverse them to become successes, also! Thank you to his Mom and Dad for being amazing personalities and great 'doers.' – MNRI® Team