

Initiating Speech in a Delayed Toddler

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Jace's mother's reports, "We started seeing Lou when my son, Jace, was about 23 months old. I was concerned about his language development, because he was not making very many sounds, certainly not verbalizing or babbling, all possible signs of speech aphasia. He was born via C-section with IUGR (Intrauterine Growth Restriction) and low birth-weight, and he had been slower developing than other kids, even with some movement therapy, so we were particularly sensitive to this. He was also very shy around other people, taking a long time to trust and accept them. After hearing an interview with Lou and learning about her work with reflexes and movement, I sought her out."

My initial assessment of Jace was that he was fully mobile and mellow in nature, content to play with toys, though he made sure to keep close to his parents. His mother communicated with him in Greek, which he seemed to understand fully. He still nursed and any time he was uncomfortable with me getting closer, he would immediately indicate that he wanted to nurse.

Jace made very few sounds and would make a simple grunt to indicate he wanted something. I suggested that we start to focus his attention more on everything to do with making sounds – using tongue, lips, teeth, cheeks, hands, etc. as fun ways to make different types of sounds. The key was to focus on fun and imitation often through song and games, without expectation or judgment. We did that and sneaked in some reflex integration work as I could.

We began by working on the floor, as he was much happier and cooperative when playing with toys/trucks, and I was unable to get him to sit still for any period of time prior to this. During the first two sessions, I was able to do most of my work while he nursed, so I focused on his back, neck, and head.

Within a couple of weeks, he was able to tolerate most touch – as long as he was sitting, so I began to add facial therapies. Soon he was able to relax enough to lay on his back on my table.

I wanted to see that the muscular apparatus both outside and inside of his mouth was intact and operational. For example, I wanted to see if his tongue and jaw were able to move in different directions on cue.

I also checked his Tendon Guard throughout his body, to determine his body's response of stress. His neck and his Core Tendon Guard Re-



Lou Bosch-Wilson



Jace receiving MNRI® from Lou.



Jace receiving Oral-Facial MNRI®.

flexes were tight to the touch and he gradually allowed me to work in these areas. His ankles also reflected a tight Foot Tendon Guard Reflex.

By the third week of working together, I was able to begin to work extensively in his mouth with no resistance – though he did like it more when I had some coconut oil on my fingers! In fact, he even opened his mouth wider when asked. I had also showed his mother the many infinity 8 strokes, embracing squeezes, the spinal reflexes in addition to facial stroking and parietal tapping.

Soon he began to put his fingers in his mouth himself to indicate that he wanted work and stimulation in his mouth – and would even ask his mother to work on him at home, in his mouth and around his head and his ears.

Also, by three weeks, his mother said that Jace was loving the “massage” touch at home, more than she ever thought likely. He would lay on his side so mom could work on his Spinal Galant Reflex.

I reminded his mother that it was important to manipulate his hands and fingers – with stroking, traction and the important Babkin Palmomental Reflex to enhance his hand-mouth connections. I also began to build in eye tracking into our sessions.

At the one month point, I introduced the Landau Reflex into his home program. This is the reflex of joy and happiness and influences coordination of upper and lower parts of the body; as well as front and back. It especially develops movement control of the back of the body and influences the development of the nervous system. I thought it was important as he expressed an anxiety going into an arch position and it was difficult to do the Spinal Perez Reflex patterning with him. In addressing his Tendon Guard, Landau supports the body posture of orienting backwards to widen one’s perspective. I also included Fear Paralysis and the Abdominal Reflex into our sessions to help him with his fears and tendency to withdraw.

I worked with Jace regularly one to two times a week as our schedules permitted. His mother was very motivated and diligent by following a Home Program I gradually built on. After six months of working together, Jace was fully conversational in Greek and able to communicate in short phrases in English.

His mother reported, “In the first few months we worked together, I was impressed, amazed, ‘bowled over’ by Lou’s interaction with both me and my son. I had never seen Jace respond so quickly and trustingly to any practitioner. It was only a matter of several weeks before I was able to leave the room without Jace freaking out and only a few more visits before he complied with more and more of Lou’s requests for cooperation and trust - JOYFULLY.

In terms of results, Jace has made progress in more ways than we can count. Not only have his language skills exploded, he’s become a much more loving, affectionate child: confident, outgoing, adventurous, playful.”

We continued to work together for another nine months, during which time we focused more on other areas of development, particularly his vestibular system, rotational work, crossing the midline and more. He became more and self-assured and outgoing. Some of his final accomplishments included that he jumped into the air, clearing the ground; blew out his first candle – something he had not had the prior exhalation capacity for; and he was able to accurately and consistently throw and catch balls of different sizes, from varying distances and angles.



Jace after receiving MNRI®.



I would like to thank Jace and his wonderfully supportive family for the opportunity to be a part of their lives and their journey. I have had so much fun working with Jace, and watching his curiosity and personality blossom as his anxiety melted away. When I met with he and his mother 6 months after we stopped working together at a nearby park, Jace was confidently exploring on his own and climbing up and down the highest jungle gym - and chatting up a storm with me! – Lou Bosch-Wilson