

Our Journey to the Right and Appropriate Treatment for Our Son!

Maria & Peter Wallin, MNRI® Parents, Falun, Sweden



This is a story about our son Jake who was born in 2007. We live in the small city of Falun situated in the county of Dalarna in Sweden.

Already at the age of one year, we knew that something was not right with our son's speech. He was quiet and did not use his infant talk. When other children said their first words such as "Mom", "Dad", he said nothing. We turned to the Care Centre Britsarvet in Falun to get a referral to the ear clinic to do a hearing test. The ear specialist thought that we should implant tubes in Jake's ears to facilitate hearing and thus see if his speech would start. After several ear infections, Jake had tubes implanted at the age of 1½ years. After the implant, he began to talk more, but he was still talking less than his friends at the same age. We contacted the Child Welfare Centre and asked for an examination of his speech and language development. It was found that he was very late with his speech and a referral to a speech and language pathologist was sent immediately.

Jake was a happy and social 2½ year old who was late with his speech. He was diagnosed with a moderate speech and language impairment. He understood exactly what was being said but had difficulties conveying and communicating with others so that they could understand.

In April of that year we got an appointment with a SLP at the clinic of speech and language in Falun, who gave Jake the diagnosis of moderate phonological language impairment. Jake's primary difficulty was with pronunciation and he had a specific disorder of articulation ability. We had a schedule and programs using different sounds and words that we practiced with him a little every day.

It was difficult and hard on us that Jake got this diagnosis. We have always known that there was something not quite right with his speech. Jake is the youngest of three siblings. When we compared him with his siblings, he deviated in speech.

He started kindergarten in 2010 to stimulate his speech and language development. The induction itself took a lot of time. He sometimes felt insecure which often manifests itself in that he did not want to eat in kindergarten. The higher pace in kindergarten made it more difficult for Jake to make himself understood. We were in constant communication (meetings) and dialogue with the kindergarten staff and the head teacher to mentor and provide information about Jake's difficulties. My husband and I devoted a lot of time to that. Unfortunately, there is little knowledge about children with speech and language impairment in kindergarten and they needed guidance in this. We believe that Jake developed but this is mainly due to the work we put into practice at home.

We read on the internet about the speech clinic at Danderyd Hospital in Stockholm that they had been successful with exercises and new therapies. We called and consulted both the clinic manager and SLP Helena

REFLEXES

Björelius at the Oral Motor specialist Center in Danderyds Hospital and described Jake and his difficulties. SLP HB had started to use the Masgutova Neurosensorimotor Reflex Integration (MNRI®) at the speech clinic since fall 2010. We thought that the treatment method sounded very interesting.

We visited SLP Helena Björelius at the speech clinic for the first time in November 2011 and she assessed Jake to make recommendations. Jake did not produce any fricative sounds, or made them with a 'snorting' sound and he had slurred speech. She said he was hypotonic in the muscles used for speech and his Oral-Facial Reflexes were not integrated. He was also generally hypotonic especially in his joints. Jake was diagnosed with developmental dysarthria by SLP Björelius. We learned both about Jake's disabilities and also got answers to many other questions. In summer of 2012 we had our first session with the MNRI® program. I had an instructive tutorial on how we could practice at home with Jake. We used reflex integration with the exercises from Oral-Facial Reflex integration, Bonding, Babkin, Babinski, Legs Cross Flexion-Extension, and Spinal Perez. We also used Visual Reflex integration and some Neurostructural Reflex exercises for the diaphragm. It was really a relief for us, being his parents, as we felt that we had finally found the correct and appropriate treatment for Jake. All the body parts must work and be synchronized in order to function in a complete way. The speech is part of this interaction. SLP Björelius at the Oral Motor Center came to us as an angel, and confirmed what we always felt; it was not only the speech but the relationship between speech and his generally hypotonic muscles which was the key to success. This knowledge and experience can not be found in Falun. In spite of this important fact, the county council of Dalarna found that we had to pay for this treatment for ourselves. And we did. We also shared our new experiences and knowledge with the speech clinic in Falun, so they would know what they had missed.

We feel that Dr. Svetlana Masgutova's treatment has made our son develop in a positive direction very fast. By spring 2013 he is generally less hypotonic and has now developed all speech sounds and does not slur his speech any more. He also has developed more self esteem.

We are eternally grateful that we have been treated by the MNRI® program at the Oral Motor Specialist Center in Stockholm and we will continue to recommend all parents who have a child with speech difficulties to turn there. Many thanks to Helena Björelius for her expertise, skill, and knowledge! You are the best!



We wish Jake additional achievements in learning, growth, and personality development! We congratulate and thank his parents for all the small and big achievements and wish him great health and continued success on his journey for more positive changes. – The MNRI® Team