

Lucian

Because with your gift, children like Lucian will overcome significant speech delays and enter Kindergarten with no additional supports.

At 12 months, Lucian passed many of the milestones of most children. He crawled and walked early, and began cooing and speaking in a baby-talk. But as Lucian neared the age of two, the babble, although incessant and earnestly made throughout the day, never became understandable, not even to his two older siblings. At 2 years of age, he only spoke 2 or 3 words that were comprehended by his mother. Despite the fact that he lived in a house full of siblings and two parents, Lucian was utterly alone. According to his mother, “He was untrusting of all of us because he was nonverbal and felt isolated and misunderstood. He lashed out at his family. He would ‘give up’ trying to play with other children because no one understood him. He was initially sad, but then became frustrated and quite angry.”

Lucian was diagnosed at the age of two with speech delays – and he wasn’t an ideal client at first - he was nervous and didn’t trust anyone, let alone a complete stranger in an unfamiliar building. Although his mind was full of thoughts that he desperately wanted to express, his weak tongue made it impossible for him to form any words. But Lucian’s speech therapist wouldn’t give up on him. She worked until she found a way to get him to trust her – and once that barrier came down, the real progress could begin. But even as his speech made dramatic improvements, his self-confidence and love of learning truly didn’t appear until he attended the BOOST preschool program. As a four year old, he didn’t show any interest in letters or numbers as his siblings did. His mother remarks, “Within just one week of attending, he went from complete indifference to coming home and telling me all about his numbers and letters and how excited he was to have ‘homework.’”

The individualized attention he received in the classroom helped him feel so accomplished.



Today he is flourishing in Kindergarten with no extra supports. “Columbus Speech & Hearing Center became a place that we looked forward to coming to for our weekly sessions and then later also for preschool. Now he attends school with his brother and sister, and he comes home telling us stories about the day and about new friends that he is making. Our family dynamic has completely changed. He plays with his four siblings (including a new baby sister!) and can fully participate in family activities because all of his behavioral problems vanished when he began to be able to communicate with us.

He just wanted to talk and be understood like everyone else. Now he does.