



Pessy's story

Pessy is ten years old and has dyslexic tendencies. Prior to joining our programme her academic attainment was very weak and this had been affecting her confidence and self esteem, as well as her social status. She was, overall, a very low achiever. She was having tremendous difficulty with her reading, she could not read even one sentence properly and was unable to keep up in class, or do her homework.

Her school teacher decided to refer her to the Sonshine Club and Pessy was assessed by our specialist teacher. A project plan was designed and specific targets and planned outcomes were established along with how milestones were to be met.

Pessy joined the weekly literacy group in April. Her attendance was very consistent and dramatic progress was seen soon after she began attending, which led to a general increase in her self esteem and confidence.

There has been constant liaising with the parents, who have been actively involved, as well as with teachers at school. Monitoring of progress was carried out as we followed through with the project plan.

The successful outcome of this programme was highlighted with an incident which occurred in later in the year. Her school gave a stage performance and at the event itself, Pessy was asked to be the narrator, without any prior notification. She managed this task beautifully, full of confidence, without any prompting or prior practice, reading the script off the paper to a large audience.

All those involved in Pessy's progress have acknowledged that at the end of two programmes, each of ten sessions, Pessy was ready to move on. Despite no longer being an active participant in the programme we will continue to monitor Pessy's educational standard at regular intervals.