

Friday 12th August 2016

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RE: Jenny Levitan - Special needs children educator / behaviour modification specialist.

Having had the privilege of Jenny Levitan teach my 12 year old son (diagnosed with HF Autism, ADHD and Generalised Anxiety Disorder) at Larmenier Special School for the past 2 years I know firsthand how her methods of working with children are successful in bringing about positive outcomes and change lives for the better.

My son was enrolled in a short term behaviour modification program for children with extreme behavioural, social and emotional challenges, who are not coping in mainstream school and are at risk of not being able to continue their education in a school setting without drastic, experienced, qualified and specialised intervention.

Jenny's expertise in dealing with children with a wide range of differing needs is exponentially greater than a traditional specialist teacher. The intervention model that she uses is specifically tailored to meet the needs of behaviourally challenged children, regardless of the origin, including but not limited to, disadvantage, environment, circumstance and disability. She uses a holistic, family oriented approach based around the constant reinforcement of calmness, positiveness, consequence, cohesiveness and restorative practice. Jenny's extensive training and successful implementation of these highly specialized strategies go far beyond what a traditional special needs teacher could offer as they are simply not trained in these advanced and specific skills. Jenny's prolific and continued success with her students and their families proves that she is a master of these essential strategies.

My son's successful transition back to mainstream school is indicative of the implementation of her knowledge on a daily basis and underpins his success. Jenny provided my sons mainstream school with an immense amount of support during his transitioning. Her dealings with the school were professional on every level and she not only provided advocacy for my son but also provided a modified education plan, strategies & training for the staff. Jenny also has experience consulting with multiple schools for many children at any given time. She can successfully work in conjunction with the child, their parents, the staff and principal of the mainstream school to ensure an optimal outcome. Her interpersonal skills and ability to educate in both a mainstream and specialist setting are unique and invaluable.

There are the many traits that stand out about Jenny, but it is her perpetually positive outlook, patience, compassion and understanding that set her apart from other educators. Part of why she wants to work with students with specialist needs is that she believes that every child should be given the time and support they need in order to learn, and she believes that every child can achieve success. Jenny's calm, patient and supportive disposition ensures students grasp a skill, no matter how many days, weeks or months are necessary. Jenny consistently provides skills, patience, hope & kindness to all children that she teaches. Her positive reinforcement and self-esteem building skills are a big part of what makes her such an incredible educator. What sets Jenny apart is her unrivalled ability to focus on the positive in all situations while still implementing strategic behaviour modification strategies and achieving academic gains.

Jenny's devotion to helping children with significant behavioural and learning challenges is evident on a daily basis. It is clear that her position was more than a job or career, but instead her life's work and passion. She displayed her commitment and dedication in every aspect of my sons time spent with her. Through her dedication, effort and specialist knowledge she helps each and every child who she comes in contact with, make tremendous strides in both academics and behaviour.

I am very excited to see Jenny continue her passion supporting and educating children with complex behavioural, social & emotional needs and the schools they attend. Her breadth of skills and knowledge will be an asset to all who seek her services. Jenny possesses the skill, knowledge, experience and attitude necessary to bring about change when no-one else believes it can happen.

Sincerely

Dianne Zantuck

(Mum of a son, blessed to have had Jenny change our lives for the better.)