

# Know someone who struggles with reading? TRUE BERMUDA SUCCESS STORY!

## Alexander's Success Story

In 2004 Alexander was an 11 year old boy in Grade 5/P6. He was assessed at a hospital overseas in August 2004 and the hospital's report concluded that Alexander met the criteria for 'ADHD and Reading Disability'.

Used with permission, here is *actual* information from Alexander's report:

**Oral Reading** – "Alexander" had significant difficulty on oral reading passages on which his performance was **below age and grade expectations**. Reading comprehension abilities were in the lower end of the average range and relatively better developed than reading fluency (reading rate and accuracy). His **oral reading** was in the Borderline range with reading rate at the beginning **4<sup>th</sup> grade** level, **accuracy at mid – 1st grade level** and **reading comprehension** at the **mid-4th grade** level.

**Mathematics** – Alexander's ability was in the upper end of the **Average range** and at the **mid 6th grade level**.

**Attention:** Alexander was **fidgety during most of the testing**, playing with the pencil, moving his hands constantly, banging his feet and impulsivity was evident

**Emotional Functioning** - Low Self-Confidence related to school performance

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On April 13<sup>th</sup> 2005 Alexander began using **Fast ForWord**. He started using Fast ForWord Middle & High and after mastering those exercises moved on to Fast ForWord Language to Reading which he finished in the summer of 2005. Alexander spent a **total of 63 training days on both Fast ForWord programs**.

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In **June 2005** at the end of **Grade 6/P7** Alexander and his parents returned to the Hospital overseas for a follow-up visit to determine whether the Fast ForWord training had resulted in any improvement from his previous assessment.

**N.B. The specialists at the hospital were not informed of the Fast ForWord Training until after the follow-up evaluations had concluded.**

**The Hospital specialists were amazed at the improvement that Alexander demonstrated through his results.**

**Here are the highlights:**

**Mathematics** – an area of relative strength and in the **High Average range**. Alexander's math skills were at the **mid-8th grade level ( improved by 2 Grade Levels)**

**Sight word reading** skills at mid - 7th grade level while **word decoding** was assessed at a beginning 8th grade level.

**Oral Reading** – Alexander's oral reading ability was assessed at the **beginning 6th grade ( improved by 2 Grade Levels)** level, while his reading **comprehension skills** was at the **mid 6th grade level ( improved by 2 Grade Levels)**

**Reading fluency has moved into the average range** as his reading rate and accuracy **are now within grade expectations( improved by 3 grade levels)**

**Attention:** In contrast with his behavior during the previous evaluation, there was **no inattention, fidgeting or impulsivity**. Alexander was also very confident, **displaying high self esteem** and very positive mood. Even when completing tasks that were more difficult for him he continued to work persistently and denied needing breaks.

**Recommendation:** Given “Alexander’s” progress during the P7 academic year, it is recommended that his parents **continue the Fast ForWord reading programme....**