

Open Pathways to Learning LLC

Learning & Brain Disorders Solutions



MARY'S STORY



Mary Dravis-Parrish

A MOTHER & SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL BECOMES A GIFTED PRACTITIONER

DESTINED TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Mary Dravis-Parrish felt she had something of a special calling. She loved children and knew she wanted to help them achieve their full potential, but she wasn't drawn to working with just any children. No, she wanted to work with youth with special needs – i.e. those with learning and behavior disabilities.



“Perhaps it was because my younger brother had similar life-long learning disabilities,” explains Mary. “It was hard to see how difficult things were for him and, as a result, difficult for our family in ways as well.”

Whatever the reason, Mary worked with special education children and their families for a heartfelt 16 years (in Poudre School District, Fort Collins, CO). She primarily helped

of which were able to improve his situation. Says Mary, “We were like many parents; we turned every stone we could think of to help him improve, but nothing seemed to make much of a difference.”

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teaching elementary children language arts and math. Then Mary's new stepson entered her life, with learning disorders of his own.

WANTING TO HELP HER STEP-SON

Although she had worked with many children and knew of the frustrations and difficulties they endured trying to succeed in school, Mary couldn't figure out how to help her dear new son. He struggled with understanding social cues, doing his homework, motivation, initiation, memory issues and a low affect.

Over the next two years Mary, her husband and son tried a number of options - counselors, medication, dietary changes, supplements and classroom accommodations – none

Then, as serendipity can do, Mary found herself moved to attend an informational meeting about a physical kinesiology practice in Fort Collins that purported to be able to resolve many typical learning disorders. It intrigued her to hear that this non-invasive treatment, called Crossinology Brain Integration Technique (BIT), could open up the blocked pathways of the brain that can be the root cause of many learning disorders symptoms (i.e. neuro-pathways that had been blocked due to some sort of emotional and/or physical trauma).

Mary wanted to determine whether brain integration treatment, as practiced by Nancy Evans of Open Pathways to Learning since 2004, could help the students she worked with every day. “I especially wanted

to know if it could help my stepson and our family,” says Mary. Considering everything she’d learned in her 17 years in special education, what Nancy shared made sense. So Mary decided with her husband that her step-son would be treated by Nancy.

FINALLY SOMETHING THAT HELPED

The results were slow in coming, but Mary’s 12 year old boy began to improve in his motivation and his social habits. He also began talking openly and appropriately to his parents and other people, took responsibility for his work and his focus improved so much so that he could sit and work on his homework and hobby building models for

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hours. Mary and her husband were tickled with the progress!

Based on her son’s successful response, along with seeing how impressively Nancy’s treatments were benefiting students in her school, Mary decided to have brain



integration treatment herself. According to Mary, “I wanted to know firsthand what this protocol was capable of doing!”

Once Mary’s treatment was completed, she found herself

comprehending her reading better and reading faster. She also found that information she read or heard made more sense to her. She could more effectively process and inter-relate the various details she took in. Her memory likewise improved.

Also, Mary experienced meaningful emotional healing from the grief she carried over the loss of her 19 year old son. She felt relief that had previously eluded her.

IT’S TIME TO SHARE THIS GIFT

Then, in honor of her younger brother, who never had access to the impressive benefits BIT is able to

offer, Mary decided to become certified as a BIT practitioner. As Mary puts it, “I wanted to share this gift of healing with others, so they can experience the successes my family has come to know.”

While continuing to work in special education for another year with Poudre School District, Mary studied Kinesiology and Brain Integration at the Learning Enhancement Center in Boulder and was certified by Susan McCrossin (the creator of this protocol) in July of 2007.

Mary’s dream now is to enhance the lives of clients and their families through her brain integration practice. Says Mary, “I value how this technique creates permanent progress in clients without the use of drugs or invasive procedures. I love doing this work!”

Mary is a partner practitioner with Nancy Evans in Open Pathways to Learning LLC. According to Nancy,



Open Pathway’s founder, “Mary is a gifted special education professional and healer. I was tickled when Mary decided to become certified. Now that she’s an accomplished BIT practitioner in her own right, we couldn’t be more happy to be collaborating together. She’s special!”

Mary, for her part, is proud to have joined as successful a practice as Open Pathway’s. “They’ve become a leader in the learning disorder community and clearly are making a huge difference,” says Mary.

Brain Integration Treatment through Open Pathways to Learning is now an approved procedure through the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

More than 200 clients/families have been served in the first two years of Open Pathways’ service to Northern Colorado.

Discover more about how Mary helps children and adults resolve their learning disorders by visiting our website or calling the phone number noted at the bottom of this page.