

## DRAW A LINE IN THE SAND – PARENT TESTIMONIES

July 2010

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In the past year, Avery has shown remarkable gains in a variety of areas of her development (she is now 3 ½). Below, we note many of her more striking achievements in her cognition, speech, and fine motor skills. We think that many of these developmental steps have occurred along with her progress in being able to focus on tasks for more extended periods of time. In terms of cognitive skills, her receptive language and both willingness and ability to follow directions and routines have increased exponentially. She has learned to recognize each letter of the alphabet and the corresponding sounds that they make. She can sight read approximately 50 words. She learned to sort colors and identifies common colors by name. Avery's progress over the past year in her development of speech is also encouraging. The clarity of the words and word approximations that she uses in her speech has improved dramatically. She is now using two word combinations with relative frequency and is relying far less on sign language for communication. She seems to enjoy conversations. She is now actively participating in singing songs. Her fine motor skills have generally been more in line with her typical peers than have her other developmental skills. Yet, it has been thrilling to see how she has modified her grip on writing utensils so that she generally uses the grip that is preferred in school (instead of simply holding the ends). Also, she has learned to cut with scissors and complete many different types of board puzzles over the past year. Avery can also identify many numbers and is counting to 10 with a little prompting. We are so proud of our smart girl!

Chris Knoester and Dana Haynie

