

## DRAW A LINE IN THE SAND – PARENT TESTIMONIES

July 2010

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We started Matthew on ginkgo when he was almost 6 years old, and we began Prozac (fluoxetine) and phosphatidyl choline (PC) a few months later. It took awhile to get his dosage right and to find a method for giving it to him (fluoxetine in applesauce, capsules of ginkgo and PC to swallow using a straw). The first change I noticed in his cognitive ability was that he started talking in complete sentences. He also seemed to retain information better. Whereas before, it seemed he would never learn his ABCs, after starting the protocol, he was better able to recall all of the letters. Instead of taking two steps backward for every step forward, he seems to move ahead slowly, without going backward at all.

We can't compare Matthew's learning ability to that of his siblings or his peers—he is still well below average—but Joanne has worked with children with Down Syndrome for 35 years, and she has noticed a difference in Matthew's ability to learn compared to other children with Down Syndrome. His teachers at school have commented that Matthew outperforms his peers in the special needs class. He also outperforms other special needs children in a private therapy group. For instance, he was the only one to grasp the concept of playing goalie—to stop the ball from going in the net, rather than trying to score. The explanations for how the medicines overcome deficiencies in the Down Syndrome brain seem to be working in Matthew's case. It could be that he has natural, God-given talent, but we aren't going to stop the protocol to find out.

Amy Thomas

