

Dear Neighbor,

When I tell people about the achievements my son Eric has made at Arc of Westchester's Children's School for Early Development, most really don't understand.

But I know you are a supporter of Arc of Westchester, so I feel confident you'll know why the little things Eric has learned can mean so much to this mother's heart.

Eric was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder when he was two years old. We just call it ASD for short. At the age of three he wasn't talking and he really didn't seem to recognize or acknowledge other people.

If you said, "Hi, Eric!" he sometimes wouldn't react at all.

I was doing all of the same developmental things I did with Eric's older brother, but we weren't making progress. However, from his very first day at The Children's School, he began to develop at a much faster pace.

They worked with him on social, play and language skills. Plus, the teachers took the time *to teach me* their techniques so I could implement them at home. I could see improvements almost every day. Tiny steps, maybe, but they gave me great hope.

Then, about four months into the program, I picked him up from school and he said, "Hi, Mommy!" I was in shock.

It was the first time he put two words together. And it was the first time he had ever greeted me by name. I cried and hugged him.

Eric is now in his second year at The Children's School and he continues to develop. He can write all of his letters now and he counts to 20!

It's as if the people at The Children's School have just unlocked him and my little boy is opening up and coming out. We have a long way to go, but I can't say enough about what Arc of Westchester and The Children's School have done for us. I am so grateful for your support. You've helped change Eric's life. Thank you.



*Eric in the pumpkin patch last month*

Sincerely,

*Julie*

Julie Moratta