

Director of Special Education Testimony

Approximately ten years ago, I was researching how to improve executive functioning skills for my students with disabilities. At that time, I was teaching resource reading to students with learning disabilities. I was following the curriculum, but I felt something was missing. These students were in 5th and 6th grade and were reading at the same levels they had been for a few years, but I was doing everything I knew how to do. I found Equipping Minds and thought, "This may be the missing link." I purchased the manual and the exercise video, got permission from our special education director, and dove in. I had no idea what I was doing, but it felt right. We only played Blink and did the exercises, but my students were getting quicker. The year ended, and I was assigned a new subject and class. I left Equipping Minds lingering in the back of my mind.

Fast forward three years, my daughter had struggled through elementary school and was transitioning to middle school. I was on social media, and a speech pathologist I knew posted that she was tutoring in Equipping Minds, so I jumped on the chance to have her work with my daughter. Over the six weeks that summer, my daughter was a changed girl. She was clearer in her speech, she could articulate herself in complete sentences, and her attention to task had increased. I was blown away. She is now a senior in high school, has a 3.8 grade point average, and is headed to college. I firmly believe that Equipping Minds helped lay a foundation for her success.

Today, as Director of Special Education for a public school district, I have invested in Equipping Minds because it has proven to be the missing link for students with disabilities. I was reading a book about Specially Designed Instruction, and that little voice screamed at me, "You have got to put Equipping Minds in your teacher's hands!" We trained a pilot group, and the results spoke for themselves. Students standardized test scores increased, one student in the pilot group was released from her on-task goal, and teachers finally felt like they had a tool addressing the missing link for students. We now have all K-2 special education teachers trained and utilizing the program. Next year, we will train all 3-5 special education teachers. Equipping Minds allows our teachers to help students "clear the roadblocks" and rewire the brain so that they have the abilities and pathways to conquer their academic deficits.