

James'* story

James is a quiet, hard-working little boy who always does his best, but he just couldn't seem to make any progress with his reading and writing in his Reception year and this continued into Year 1.

His older sister has a diagnosis from an Educational Psychologist to say that she is dyslexic and has struggled all the way through primary school, making minimal progress. James showed all the signs of going the same way.



James was born with a cleft lip that was corrected when he was a baby, but he is still receiving speech therapy and finds it difficult to make some sounds as well as having immature language.

James began Reading Recovery in March and at first made slow progress. His mum was very supportive, coming to observe a lesson and doing his homework with him every night. One day while reading, James made an amazing discovery, that “ ‘my’ is the same as that one on the other page!” We then looked for ‘my’ on every page and in lots of books. He was thrilled to find it was the same everywhere. From that point James started to move forward with confidence and has continued to make good progress. He is now reading simple stories and writing all the time. His class teachers see him as a different child in the classroom, not just in literacy lessons but also in his whole attitude to learning.

A few days ago James had a speech therapy review and his therapist was surprised at his progress. He had made good progress with sound production but his use of language had risen from the bottom 3% to average levels. James is a much more talkative and confident little boy, bouncing into his lesson each day already knowing what he wants to write about.

It may well be that James is dyslexic like his sister but we don't think it's going to stop him learning to read and write, thanks to *Every Child A Reader* and Reading Recovery.

* Not his real name