



RCS Student Profile

Greg



In 2009, Greg was referred to RCS Learning Center during a time of crisis. His severe maladaptive behaviors of non-compliance, aggression and property destruction left him unable to receive a quality education in his setting. Greg started at RCS as an introverted and rigid young boy, quickly acting out when presented with any demand or direction. Preferring to be left to himself and his own agenda, Greg was agitated when others would approach him even for a simple greeting. Through hard work and dedication, the amazing staff began to peel away his rough outer layers to see Greg for who he really was, a highly social, funny, creative and caring young man who had so much more to offer the world.

Here is his story.

Before RCS, when Greg chose not to do something that was asked of him he was continuously pressed to comply until he either complied to the original request or engaged in property destruction/aggression which would result in him being placed in a time out and ultimately escaping the demand. By the time we met Greg he had clearly learned this contingency and would quickly turn to highly destructive and aggressive behaviors at the onset of any demand/direction. Immediately after starting at RCS, our team of clinicians developed a preliminary plan to eliminate these actions from the start. The focus of Greg's program was to incorporate as much choice and independence as possible while systematically embedding more and more demands and instruction. While Greg was capable of speaking and had a great vocabulary, he rarely used his words to describe his feelings but rather acted out physically. Therefore a tremendous focus of his program, as it is for all students at RCS, was to teach appropriate communication which would ultimately replace the maladaptive behaviors.

Through careful, individualized programming based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis and Verbal Behavior in our unique 1:1 staff to student ratio setting, along with an appreciation and understanding of Greg's unique profile, he has been able to make tremendous progress here at RCS Learning Center. Today Greg's school day is comprised of a highly intensive program which focuses on academic skills, social skills, vocational programming and communication. He excels in Math and enjoys researching a variety of new topics. Greg's day is full of high expectations and demands that he meets and achieves in the absence of maladaptive behaviors. One of the areas of most notable growth has been with his social skills. Greg regularly seeks out social interactions from familiar and non-familiar staff and peers. Greg's progress across all areas has tremendously improved the quality of life for himself and his family.

When asked to recount one of her most memorable moments with Greg his teacher said, "It was the day Greg independently found one of his peers and asked him if he would join him on his fieldtrip. The peer accepted and joined him on the fieldtrip. Since this day Greg is always thinking of others when he plans his outings."

The future for Greg is so bright and full of potential. We feel so fortunate to be a part of it.