

## Testimonial

A recommendation, affirmation, appreciation of any service and those of achievements cannot always be described or defined in a few words or sentences, especially to the therapist and owners of LUC Academy. Renaldo and Michele the owners of LUC Academy, found and combined numerous solutions to manage and overcome many challenges faced by parents with a special needs child. They were self confronted by finding a solution for their own son, similar as we all do, trying to find the best possible solution to help our children in desperate need.

Numerous times the mountains were so high that we believed there are no solutions or answers at that moment, and then just to give us less hope, a hail or thunder storm meet you on the way. That's the life that I believe most parents with a special needs child can relate to. But we've climbed that mountain and are still busy today...and will never stop as long as we can!

### Background

Unfortunately our son Julian, one of a twin was diagnosed with classic autism at the age 2 years and 2 months. Immediately we started to study and tried to find solutions, spending late nights into the early hours of the morning. We spent thousands and thousands of Rands on research papers, books and other information. We consulted and sourced information locally and internationally from friends, associates, doctors, therapists, and various other people in the health, pharmaceutical and medical industry.

Then we were confronted by the next level, our son's need for schooling. We decided the best option at that time was to expose him to an ordinary nursery school, as we believed that all his senses required the best possible exposure to normal behaviour and patterns. After the preschool teachers weren't able to cope with our son's challenges, we decided that my wife should join the school and assist with his training program newly and thankfully received by us, from Els for autism, just another privilege and intervention we were able to enforce in his development. Still the progress wasn't that profound because of the manipulation, demands and control our son enforced on us. We then decided that an independent tutor or person is required to develop our son to his full potential. After searching and visiting numerous special needs schools, we decided that we needed to continue as we were, with all the manipulation and problems related to try and educate Julian. In the mean time we were doing research and planning to start our own school with a therapist and advisor we met along our journey to create the best possible results for Julian.

A few months down the line someone told us about a family with the same challenges, who implemented a system that could possibly help our son. At the time, Reva Fedigan, a speech pathologist from the USA, presented a seminar at this family's new school. We decided to attend it and found that these people and the knowledge they've sourced and the implementation thereof is a viable solution to assist our son with his challenges. The numerous requirements that no other school or institution we've consulted with, could provide in one package, was finally combined and fulfilled by LUC Academy.

The last diagnosis and evaluation of our son, Julian, showed an excellent improvement and a shift to a higher functional level on the autism spectrum. Without the assistance of LUC Academy and their qualified therapists and programs, it wouldn't have been possible in our opinion. Personally we've also invested hours and hours in sensory and other developments. We believe that with the hard work from both ourselves and particularly the specialised team at LUC Academy, Julian's future will be even more prosperous and fortunate than we could have ever imagined two years ago.

Nature taught us. What you sow you reap. Just remember we've also sowed on the rocks and hard surfaces. Find the special spot, the soft fertile ground in your child's life. Difficult and very hard work, but you can! Sometimes we have questioned this statement, and asked: what did we sow? But what I know today is not the answer to that question, but only that what we sow now in our lovely child's life, we would possibly reap tomorrow.

Thank you Jean-Luc, his parents, Renaldo and Michele, LUC Academy and all the therapists for your excellent service, efforts, support, advice and highly skilled input in Julian's life.

Much appreciated.

Tommie & Karin Wiid  
Julian, Calvin & Kyle.