

## Duluth Core Learning Testimonials

Zella was having a very hard time with reading fluency and math skills. She also had some attention issues when we first started the program. She often cried and was very self-conscious in school. After working through Core with Micah, and the reading and math programs, Zella is much more confident. She does not get frustrated easily, can sit and pay attention, and loves to read and write! Duluth Core is well worth the time, effort, and expense. Your child gets it all back three-fold!!

-Parent of 2<sup>nd</sup> grader

We have seen significant improvement in planning ahead, something we had never seen prior to Core Learning. We have also seen the ability for her to sit down and do her homework independently without continual supervision to focus. Prior to this, she was unable to complete homework if left alone. In school the teachers have reported improved focus as well. We have seen an amazing turn-around of actually being excited to complete school projects and homework.

-Parent of 5<sup>th</sup> grader

Lucia had been struggling to keep up and work independently at school. She lacked focus and was repeatedly getting up from her work and needing refreshers on work she had previously been introduced to. Core has helped correct these issues, give her confidence, and feel proud!

-Parent of 3<sup>rd</sup> grader

Kirsten has developed a positive sense of self. Before Core, she was stuck in a place of anxiety toward several everyday life activities. She now has a greater understanding of how to face challenges, big or small, and see the joy in her accomplishments. She feels more able to take steps that used to be quite scary for her. She learned self-regulation skills that have helped her deal with everyday tasks.

-Parent of 5<sup>th</sup> grader

I cannot speak highly enough about Duluth Core Learning or about Micah. Layton has really improved in confidence, memory, spelling, and enjoyment of reading. The frustration in our house has dropped dramatically. We are so thankful for this program as it was able to address and correct barriers to reading that we didn't even know existed. We are so proud of him and it is a pure delight to see him reading at bedtime with a smile on his face. Thank you Micah!

-Parent of 3<sup>rd</sup> grader

The program has assisted in building a lot of confidence with Aubrey's learning. Prior she would get frustrated and just freeze herself from progress. She is now having more fun while learning and her grades in school have advanced dramatically.

-Parent of 6<sup>th</sup> grader

Maeva has a better sense of how to get things done on her own. She is generally a more focused and directed student. She has definitely improved in math, which was our primary concern and our original reason to bring her to Core. The cost is worth it. The clinicians are excellent.

-Parent of 3<sup>rd</sup> grader

There have been many noticeable changes. Jonah has shown huge improvements in both grades and maturity. He is more confident in both school and in daily interactions. We had been trying so many different things that didn't work. We said yes because it was different and solid. Try it. It's worth it. Your child is worth it!

-Parent of 7<sup>th</sup> grader

The biggest change I've noticed is that his grades are improving. School doesn't seem to frazzle him like it did last year and he seems more confident in school. He also hasn't missed any assignments this year compared to numerous last year! It's a wonderful program!

-Parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student

This program has been amazing for Lance. He has progressed tremendously in his comprehension, attention, and focus. We are super happy to see his progress. Dell, his clinician, was amazing. She is very calm and really knows how to keep him going. She always provided helpful tips that we could use at school and home. What a great place that helps kids succeed!

-Parent of 2<sup>nd</sup> grader

We have discussed our experience at Core with multiple families and highly recommend the experience we had with Micah. His communication with us was excellent and most importantly he could relate to and motivate our son very effectively. Micah is awesome at what he does! What is most important to us is our son's improved confidence and decreased effort needed to read.

-Parent of 4<sup>th</sup> grader

This program has helped Caroline be able to breath, take risks, and be successful. She was able to set attainable goals and shatter them. She had a hard time at first and Micah took time to create a relationship that helped her achieve her goals.

-Parent of 5<sup>th</sup> grader

I would definitely recommend the program. Garrett has made significant improvement, his confidence in regards to school has really improved. He has enjoyed DCL and the one on one focus. Micah definitely has his trust and attention.

-Parent of high school senior

I've seen amazing improvement in my son's self-confidence which I didn't even have as a concern until I noticed the difference. His handwriting and reading comprehension have improved dramatically and he can focus on understanding what he is reading rather than on trying to get through words he can't pronounce. He also seems to have a passion back for math which he was losing when he was struggling with other skills.

-Parent of a 7th grade student

This program really helped my memory and concentration. It pushed me to get smarter, and to push me to remember things with more ease.

-High school senior

Duluth Core Learning has done a great job with our daughter. Between her confidence in herself being increased and the amazing progress with her reading I have been very impressed with your program. Thank you so much for all of your hard work. Tiana has been really wonderful with our daughter and she is going to leave Core Learning with so much.

-Parent of 4<sup>th</sup> grader

We have noted increased maturity, confidence, organization and increased attention span. Our son no longer struggles with self doubt ("feeling dumb") and his grades went from C's & D's to primarily A's with some B's. He is no longer in need of additional help from us to organize his assignments, tests and daily school activities. He does it all on his own! We have never regretted taking the chance on Core. It has exceeded our expectations and we highly recommend it. Our son is extremely successful in everything he is doing in his educational adventures. There is no more long hours at the table doing homework, no more tears, no more unfixable struggles and no more feelings of failure for any of us. He is happy and has a much better self esteem which makes us all happy. The core staff is flexible and accommodating and our son LOVES his clinician!

-Parent of 7<sup>th</sup> grader

I am doing really awesome in reading and am blowing division and multiplication out of there! I'm booming it, step by step I'm destroying it. Core has made me a better student and I am doing amazing at school. I am happy here at Duluth Core Learning.

-4<sup>th</sup> grade student

I saw Sydney become more confident and more engaged in school and in our family discussions. She opened up and expressed herself in ways she hadn't in the past.

-Parent of a high school junior

Lauren has been transformed in her confidence with not only school but socially. As parents we no longer have concerns with Lauren's future and her ability to succeed to whatever level she would desire to work hard for. I wish this would be a program that every child would be put through. Incredible!

-Parent of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader

We were not 100% confident this program would do much. However, today we are 100% grateful for Core and the team that has helped our daughter transform into a confident young lady and an excellent student! We have seen an incredible difference in our daughter. Her confidence in school this year has changed 100%. As parents we cannot express our gratitude for this program. Our daughter's future is bright!

-Parent of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader

Kyle is now able to complete work independently and had good success in a writing class taken for school. He stopped considering himself "stupid" (his word not ours), and wasn't so negative about receiving extra help to improve.

-Parent of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader

Jack has always struggled in reading and after one session realized how much he needed this training. His confidence grew almost instantly and he never refused a session even during summer and holiday breaks. Jack's reading level increased 3 grade levels from start to finish. It was certainly worth the investment!

-Parent of an 11<sup>th</sup> grader

Jacob has shown a significant improvement since starting the program. I only wish I would have heard about it sooner. I feel like this program is a hidden gem. Before Core Learning Jacob struggled tremendously. Now he has moved up a section in his reading class. Overall, I am very happy with his results as are his teachers and Jacob himself.

-Parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader

The most dramatic improvement we've seen as parents is in our daughter's test-taking skills and speed. She herself has said she's better able to read passages and comprehend or summarize them. She has been needing fewer extensions on assignments and especially exams. She has been earning much better grades on tests and has been much less afraid of them. She still struggles with writing to some extent, but less so, and she has fewer melt-downs over her homework. We think she will do better on her college entrance exams and especially in college as a whole. She will be able to identify her needs and advocate for herself! She says she felt a desire to become independent from her parents and to have a belief in her own abilities.

-Parent of an 11<sup>th</sup> grader

We learned last year that Keegan is dyslexic and dysgraphic. Last March we started going to Duluth Core Learning. Maddie & DCL changed Keegan's attitude about reading and school and therefore changed his life and our lives. Maddie and DCL gave him hope, confidence, and helped him see that he wasn't "stupid" or "slow". We will forever be grateful to Maddie and DCL for their belief and work with Keegan! Keegan and Maddie are a team whose goal was to improve Keegan's reading and writing! They were successful beyond our expectations. Thank you Duluth Core Learning!!! We love you all!!!

-Parent of a 4<sup>th</sup> grader

John is far more engaged and focused than when he started. Both school and home life have improved. He communicates better with his peers. His reading comprehension, writing, math, and vocabulary are all greatly improved. For those who can afford it, DCL is a no brainer!

-Father of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student

My daughter has more focus on her schoolwork. Rarely does she need help. We no longer fight over schoolwork in the evenings. I'm so amazed and proud of Iris and her hard work. It is joyful to watch my daughter have self-esteem and to be proud of herself.

-Parent of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student

I have seen my daughter's stamina for math improve. She is more willing to work on problems. She seems more confident. I have seen her improve with math facts and memorization. She seems more positive towards math and other schoolwork. Trina was very helpful and thorough in explaining how to do home practice. And she was positive and flexible! We were happy to have her as a clinician.

-Parent of a 6<sup>th</sup> grader

I have noticed his reading is so much better. He has more confidence in himself when he has to read in front of other people. He doesn't have to ask me how to spell words. He used to ask me how to spell simple words and now he does it on his own. You have done a great job! Thank you, Kaile. He couldn't have gotten a better clinician.

-Parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader

Clair learned ways to stay focused and had confidence to ask her teacher to be moved when focus was a problem with classmates. Her fluency has made great improvements with big leaps in testing scores. She has learned some good tactics to help her and has put them to use on her own. Lots of wins! She had an awesome connection with Kaile. Kaile had a good balance for Clair that helped her learn while having fun and building confidence to conquer challenges outside of Core. She actually doesn't want to leave the program because she will miss Kaile so much!

-Parent of a 5<sup>th</sup> grader

Learning has gotten way easier. I am able to figure out things faster. The problems in math were hard, but now I am able to figure the stuff out a lot faster than I could. Reading has gotten way better for me. Now I am able to read a problem or a book and know what they are asking me or what the story is about.

-Fifth grade student

In the beginning I was reading 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> grade books, but now I am reading 5<sup>th</sup> grade books. I didn't like to spell, but now I love to spell big words!

-Fourth-grade student

My son was very fortunate to work with Nathan and Kelsey. Their ability to identify his weaknesses and strengths was spot on as what I saw as a parent. Their ability to stay positive, focused and calm with his unwillingness to participate surpassed every expectation. They were very caring, inspiring, and professional with him. The greatest reward for doing this program was providing us with great staff whose influence will continue to shine through for many years. We were very blessed to work with them.

-Parent of an eighth grader

Ledger first came to core not being able to focus for more than 3 seconds and now can focus for 30 minutes. Ledger had no self-esteem or willingness to try new things. Core transformed him. He has the willingness and new abilities to continue to move forward in his life. Core will always be one of the best decisions of our life! Thank you!

-Parent of a 5<sup>th</sup> grader

Coming in, my daughter struggled to keep up in class, had poor grades, and multiple missing assignments. This programming helped turn that around. She no longer complains of the teacher going too fast and missing assignments are a thing of the past. Our clinician was excellent in working with her and making it fun! I recommend this program to anyone that mentions to me that their child struggles in school.

-Parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader

Sarah changed his (and our) life! She took a child who was vastly behind, thinking himself stupid and hating to read and turned him into a boy who knows the harder he works, the better he will do. He loves to read (slowly but he doesn't get frustrated) and he knows he's smart. *He* recognizes when he needs a break or is losing self-control and he has the tools to regain that control. We will forever be grateful.

-Mother of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student

When we first decided to start the program, my son was initially anxious with the idea. He was confused and embarrassed. He could not see the big picture and how more "school" would benefit him. He was willing to try. I compared all the hard practice with the various sports he is involved with and Duluth Core Learning is essentially practice for the classroom. My son's progress was evident. He grew to enjoy reading. His confidence climbed. During his first conference after starting with DCL, his teacher became emotional. All of my son's hard work was paying off and we are grateful for the tools and guidance provided by Anna and Nate. Thank you for your dedication to the program and personal guidance to my son.

-Parent of a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student

To see Hannah able to read any word by sounding it out phonetically gives me such joy, especially when I remember that she used to read by sight and guesswork. Hannah has learned to face the challenge of a new subject or task and work through the frustration and learn and grow in her skills. She has calmed down a lot since working with Micah. She has improved a lot and isn't as big of a "know it all." She is less afraid to try new things and retry "scary" things. The program was a big help helping her with calming techniques and teaching us what we were seeing and why. It helped us not get as frustrated as well.

-Parents of a third-grade student

I am able to focus better and keep things organized. I am able to read and understand things better. My handwriting has really improved. Math is easier for me now. The clinicians at Duluth Core are great. They are very helpful and you will get to do a lot of fun activities. The program really helped me.

-High school Junior

Since I started coming to DCL, I've been more organized, school is easier to get done, reading is easier, I can comprehend what I'm reading better, and I can process things faster.

-11th grade student

Sarah was wonderful with Paige! We saw a dramatic improvement our first 3-6 months. She had a much better start to fourth grade because of her Core therapy. Sarah's work with Paige gave her confidence to tackle the fourth-grade reading test on her own and get passing scores without help or aid from school. Paige is on the right path now.

-Parent of a fourth-grade student

When James first started the program it was a struggle to almost non-existent for him to read, recognize letters, or even want to look at numbers. Maddy and Sarah have been amazing (!! ) and have gotten us to a point where James enjoys reading, is doing multiplication, and making significant strides in his schoolwork. We are extremely happy that we were able to find Duluth Core Learning and the work and effort that the staff has to help the kids. It is truly their passion and it shows. We tell everyone what an amazing program this is. We loved the program, the flexibility of all the staff we interacted with and them being an integral part of our family. Thank you!

-Parent of a fourth grade student

I have seen increased confidence in academic work and willingness to work hard rather than just give up. Core taught him centering skills to regulate anxieties and the repetition and speed work helped normalize his success. I am very pleased with the leaps in reading, most notably, beginning to read for pleasure. Thank you!

-Parent of a third grade student

Micah is such a good therapist. His patience and skill level were amazing. He handled Samantha's stubbornness and occasional negative attitude very well. Despite her resistance and frustration, she has steadily improved and is functioning more closely with her grade level.

-Parent of a second grade student

My reaction time and mental processing have improved. I've started planning ahead and managing the tasks I need to get done much better, which is an area I struggled with a lot before DCL.

-8th grade student



We saw great progress in my daughter's attention, focus, and processing. We were grateful to address the root of some of her issues as it relates to school. We also saw a great improvement/reduction in anxiety levels as her confidence improved. Thank you!

-Parent of a 5th grade student

The training Karena received from DCL has been wonderful, as Micah was able to take her from essentially an extremely frustrated, struggling dyslexic non-reader to a confident, fluent reader who is now at or above her grade level! Micah was exceedingly patient and kind; flexible and adaptive- always readily able to meet Karena where she was at in her learning progress and quickly modify the activities, games, or materials to keep her engaged, ever-progressing and growing in her abilities. He always seemed to have the perfect solution for every area of difficulty, and I was continually pleasantly surprised by his ability to cater the sessions to effectively tackle her specific needs. Micah has been an invaluable gift to us over the last two years, and we are forever grateful for the time and effort he poured into Karena.

-Parent of a 5th grade student

My son has made significant gains in communication skills and self-confidence! He is like a new kid since the start of the program. He is more confident in school, advocating for himself, and showing motivation. He had a positive relationship with an effective clinician! I appreciated the frequent progress reports and updates on goals and skills.

-Parent of a 9th grade student

My memory has gotten a lot better. I've noticed I'm more organized, better at planning and setting goals for myself, my concentration has gotten better and it's easier for me to notice that I'm getting distracted and get back to what I was doing.

-12th grade student

We are 100% thrilled with Duluth Core Learning. Maddy was absolutely wonderful to work with both for Kaitlin (student) and myself (mother). Kaitlin made enormous gains in every area of concern and just as importantly, is much more confident in her ability to succeed in higher education and life beyond. We cannot say "thank you" enough. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

-Mother of an 11th grade student

The best aspect from Core is the confidence it has built in all of my kids. The confidence that they are capable and not "different" has been huge! It has overflowed to all aspects of life, not just academics. I tell all parents I talk with that the confidence they gain in themselves is worth the time and money. I also think that their academic progress has been amazing.

-Mother of three students

I love to hear my son say "I like to read now!" I have noticed a big improvement in his ability to dig in to learning and stay focused and persevere. His reading level greatly improved along with comprehension. His handwriting is much better and he doesn't hesitate now when I ask him to write something. He seems to have retained most of the skills and tools taught to him.

-Mother of a 4th grade student

I have valued and appreciated our time at Duluth Core Learning. Your evaluations were thorough and offered helpful information. Your programs were varied and offered a wide variety of help depending on the need. Home practice was clear and helped progress continue to move forward throughout the week. Josiah and I both really enjoyed Cassidy. She was kind, attentive, intuitive, and worked hard to help Josiah grow. She was flexible and patient when schedules changed. Her positive encouragement made hard tasks more enjoyable. I would recommend your program and Cassidy to anyone needing a bit of help. Thank you!

-Parent of an 11th grade student

When Avery first came to Duluth Core at the end of third grade, she was reading 24 words per minute with poor comprehension. By the end of fourth grade, Avery was reading over 100 words per minute and was able to take the reading MCA's with no assistance. Avery now reads grade level chapter books and comprehends what she is reading. I am feeling so much more confident that she has the skills needed for success. Thank you!

-Parent of a 4th grade student

This program has improved a lot of my skills. I notice that my mental flexibility is more open to seeing things from a different view. Also, comprehension when reading has improved drastically. I came here and could barely remember a sentence, and now I can almost remember a whole story. Core is an amazing place, there are many options for people struggling in different areas. Every clinician was absolutely wonderful and I could tell they truly care for their clients!

-21 year-old student

Comprehending while reading has gotten a lot easier. I am able to picture things a lot clearer when reading and listening. This has helped a lot at school listening to lectures and everyday life. Overall memory has felt better for me and it makes it easier to study and remember simple things.

-18-year-old student

My child was diagnosed with dyslexia at 16 in her junior year of high school. We wanted to give her as much help as we could knowing she only had one more year before college. Her trainer was excellent and our daughter was highly motivated to work through the phonics and comprehension programs. After that she worked on executive function. Her confidence in herself and school has increased and her reading and spelling skills are much better.

-Parent of a 17-year-old student

This program was truly an answer to prayer. After years of frustration, confusion, and searching for answers, we feel like we have seen our son reach the potential we always knew he had. His focus, auditory processing/conversations, reading, memory, and spelling have improved more than we could have ever hoped. We feel like we have been given the tools to continue to have success at home and in school with our son. We are more than grateful for the gift Duluth Core has given us!

-Parent of a 9-year-old student

Duluth Core has improved Colton's life significantly. He has learned so many skills that he can use for the future. He is happier, more focused, and less stressed about school. His reading and comprehension have improved. He has enjoyed working with Logan and values him as a mentor. Before Duluth Core he didn't want to attend school, had almost daily behavior issues, was getting horrible grades and low test scores. We are so happy that he has been able to turn all of that around. In addition, assessments led us to the discovery of his auditory processing disorder and diagnosis. Something we knew nothing about before coming here.

-Parent of a 3rd grade student

The improvements in our child over the last 9 months have been amazing. We've seen incredible improvement in our child's attitude, behavior, stamina, and organization. Our clinician, Cassidy, was phenomenal and we certainly will recommend her and the program.

-Parent of a 6th grade student

Before Duluth Core, Charlotte could barely read and write (after years of trying different approaches and curriculums). She struggled to sit still and had difficulty focusing. In the almost 2 years at Duluth Core, we have seen her jump several grade-levels in reading! We have been told by teachers that she is the *most* attentive, responsible, and on-task student in the class. She is confident in her abilities and does not shut down when school work is challenging!

-Parent of a 4th grade student

I sought out this program with concerns of Victoria's reading and attention, along with possible dyslexia. I was having no success reading at home. Within the last year, I've seen her grow and become so much more successful in reading. We can now read at home without tears and frustration. She's able to focus and keep more attention in school resulting in better understanding of her school learning. She's more confident in herself which has shown in more than just the learning aspect. The concern of dyslexia has greatly reduced. I feel good about stepping away and being able to help her continue her successes on my own, something I could not see a year or even half a year ago!

-Parent of a 1st grade student

I've seen drastic changes for the better in my everyday life and with my career. With this program my mental endurance and flexibility has improved significantly and does not interfere with my life as it once did. I've gained confidence through this program and would recommend it to anyone struggling. Cassidy is an excellent clinician! She consistently showed up for me, pushed me, and challenged me in the best ways that helped me succeed. She was very aware of my needs and tailored to where I was at to reach my goals.

-Adult client

First and foremost Lilly has been exceptional: knowledgeable, patient, informative, and consistent. We've seen Increased stamina, decreased frustration, increased confidence, and increased ability to read and focus.

-Mother of a 3rd grade student

I appreciated how direct Grace was with Ari. It helped avoid any wiggle room Ari had to negotiate her way out of something. I have seen a vast improvement with her cooperation and being engaged with other people as well as chores and "unwanted" activities. I appreciate that this program focuses on the root issues of the symptoms rather than the symptoms themselves. She had many retained reflexes that were holding her back that presented as bad behavior or non-cooperation.

-Parent of a 5th grade student

Caleb entered your program at 16, and, on paper, he was a successful student. He worked hard—slow and steady. He read voraciously and tested well. One area that never got easier for him was communication. We labored over writing without enough progress. Micah started sessions with him working auditory processing and AMPS. He challenged Caleb's limits - and our boy grew. Caleb's stamina and focus increased. He began to notice having greater endurance in schoolwork. Next came the writing phase of sessions. Caleb struggled to find words to express himself. He sweat over building outlines and expanding into compositions. Micah tirelessly worked through power writes, power talks, writing exercises and challenges. This intensive, targeted, scaffolded training was just what Caleb needed. When Caleb finished this portion of session work he successfully transitioned to PSEO and was able to navigate writing of a wide variety—including college composition. With Micah's support and training Caleb practiced problem solving and gained organizational strategies to support him in his independent PSEO workload. He built writing skills and endurance that were necessary for his next stage of schooling and life. Caleb has grown in confidence expressing himself and handling what life brings him in school and out. We are so grateful for this incredible program in our community that offers such a wide variety of help to individuals—all leading to improved lives. Thank you Micah and Carolyn—we have been blessed!

-Parent of an 18-year-old student

The things on which I improved which made the biggest difference in my life are my processing speed, multi-tasking ability, and visualization skills. Many tasks such as reading, memorizing, and comprehending information have become far faster and easier for me to complete. I've found I'm now able to complete tasks while somebody is talking to me without getting distracted, take notes in real time while listening to my teacher, and entertain myself while still getting whatever boring task I need to do completed.

-10th grade student