

Lexion used with an autistic child!

This testimonial was written by a Teaching Assistant supporting a nine-year-old boy with a diagnosis of autism. Elliott has extreme anxiety about speaking outside his home (Selective Mutism). We introduced *Choose and Cook* and *Lexion* into his home, and then onto a computer at school, as part of a research project looking at ways to support children with selective mutism become confident speakers in school.

Lexion was set up at Elliott's house in June 2009. For about an hour each week with his mum present he would show me how to play the different games on Lexion, Choose and Cook and Legends. Over the weeks that followed Elliott's confidence in showing me what to do grew and grew, as he learnt how to play all the games and had great fun correcting me every time I got it wrong. I could see that he was relaxing more. I think he enjoyed the fact that he was in charge and knew what to do, where as I didn't have a clue.

After about 8 weeks and with Elliott's say so Lexion was put on a few computers at school ready for Elliott to start using in September 2009.

Using a familiar and quiet room in the school Elliott uses Lexion 3-4 mornings a week for about 25 minutes.

For the first week he chose a girl who sits next to him in class and who he feels fairly comfortable with. First Elliott showed her some of the different games and how to play them. By the end of the first week they were sharing the computer and trying to work it out together with Elliott having the advantage of showing her what to do. In the next couple of weeks he chose a few more children that he felt fairly comfortable with from his class. He then decided he wanted to show two children at the same time and has kept it this way ever since.

With some of the children he will choose them time and time again. With this I notice a difference in his body language and can see he is feeling more comfortable and relaxed. They are all sitting closer together, trying to work it out and interacting a bit more.

I feel that Lexion is having a positive effect on Elliott. Giving him the confidence to make a choice when choosing children to play on Lexion with him. He is realising with his friends that it doesn't matter if they get it wrong sometimes. I can see Elliott relaxing more with his closest friends and giggling along with them sometimes.

So far Elliott has introduced Lexion to about 10 children in his class. Some he feels quite comfortable with and others not quite as comfortable. Hopefully in time he will feel more at ease and be able to socially interact with them. Then maybe he will be brave enough to show the other children in his class. Elliott enjoys playing on Lexion and I'm sure it gives him the feeling of importance especially when his friends ask him to choose them. I am sure Elliott is benefiting from Lexion, as are the children who play on it with him and hopefully his progress will continue.

Wendy Stanbridge
Teaching Assistant

For more information about this research visit www.talk4meaning.co.uk