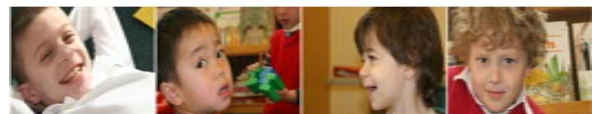


OUR MISSION

The School for Language and Communication Development is a publicly funded 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit which provides special education services to children with language disorders including those along the autism spectrum continuum. Founded in 1985, SLCD's program has grown from 36 preschoolers to more than 400 children ages 18 months to 21 years in elementary, middle and high school programs. Our mission is to identify children with language and communication disorders early and provide educational programs which will prepare them for a world filled with words, sentences, stories and messages. Language is a symbol system; it provides the means to reach out to the world. Language provides the foundation for socializing, reading, questioning, writing and thinking. For more information call 516-609-2000 x 123 or visit our web site at www.slcd.org.



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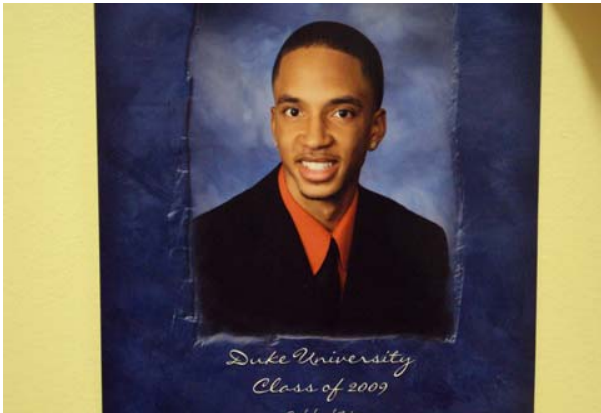
GIVING OUR CHILDREN A VOICE

SCHOOL FOR
LANGUAGE AND
COMMUNICATION
DEVELOPMENT





DEVON 1991—SLCD PRESCHOOL



DEVON 2009—DUKE UNIVERSITY

“I want to thank you and your staff for your kindness and dedication. You helped to open a window onto a world for this kid from Hempstead”.

“Thank you for the gift of language”

Autism spectrum disorders have increased to 1 in 150 children. Aside from the growing number of children who desperately need services, there are still a limited number of programs that prepare them for lifelong challenges.

When Devon attended SLCD in 1991 at age 3 he was an extremely shy, quiet, and frightened, speech impaired boy. Working with the caring and dedicated staff at SLCD, Devon was given the gift of language. He left SLCD a different child. Like many children with language and autism spectrum disorders, it took a special key to unlock the door and eliminate the frustrations he faced every day. In May 2009, Devon graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. He is pursuing a master's degree at Duke University, and is a goalie on Duke's nationally ranked Lacrosse team.

Many children are not as fortunate as Devon. Without the appropriate mix of “teacher, curriculum and services” children with disabilities never reach their potential. We have heard from many of our graduates, and we continue to be amazed by their extraordinary accomplishments and successes. Yes, we have high expectations for our students, but that is not enough.

With the development of our high school program, we have been able to validate the effectiveness of our philosophy, curriculum and instruction. We have also learned that preparing children for independent living and future jobs must begin in elementary school. Students in elementary school must be prepared much earlier than their typical peers because they have special learning needs. Our primary focus for the future as a School is in the area of technology. We believe that technological skills will provide our children with the greatest opportunities not only to achieve their potential but also to find jobs in the workplace. Technology and related computer equipment, however, are expensive.

We are asking all of you to make a generous gift towards the development of our technology programs. Your gift is a commitment to a child's future and ultimately his ability to succeed in the workplace. Adults with disabilities are usually the last hired and the first fired. It takes a tremendous amount of work to establish a relationship with local businesses to set up training experiences for our high school students. There is still a great deal of prejudice and reluctance about hiring individuals with disabilities. We believe that the stronger our students' skills, the easier it will be to place them in various work settings. Your gift is not just about “a program,” it is about supporting a child and giving him the best chance for future success.

Remember, the children who enter SLCD do not have a voice. SLCD has transformed the lives of many children and given them an opportunity for a future like Devon. This is not just about being altruistic and giving to others, it is about helping SLCD give a child a future.

SLCD is a place of miracles, and Devon's success is one of SLCD's miracles. Give a child the same chance.

With warm regards,

Dr. Ellenmorris Tiegeman
Founder and Executive Director

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