Building a Village of Support and Guidance

I work full-time and am a single mother to a 7-year-old boy named Benjamin. Ben has had difficulties with his reading and writing skills, as well as comprehension and language. He has a very hard time sitting still in class, and therefore is easily distracted. He also has trouble understanding instructions and being able to talk to other people at his grade level. He hadn’t been diagnosed with a disability, but was accepted into special education because of his very low test scores. I remember how fast my heart would beat whenever his school’s number came up on my screen. “What happened today?” “What can I do to help my son?” “What is going on with him?” are questions I asked myself on a daily basis.

I heard about Morrissey-Compton through Sue Johnson, who had helped facilitate the “LiveAble Women” cohort that I was in at AbleWorks. I was talking to her about the stress of trying to help Ben in school and mentioned that I was worried that there might be something else going on that hinders his ability in class. She said she would talk to someone whom had gone through a similar situation, and a few days later, emailed me with information on Morrissey-Compton.

I called in and started talking to the intake specialist. When I was quoted the rates for an assessment, I felt my shoulders instantly drop; there was no possibility of me being able to afford those prices without taking out a loan. Then she mentioned that financial aid was available, and I breathed a sigh of relief.

Ben’s assessments concluded within three months after being approved for a very generous scholarship. Morrissey-Compton also did a school visit and spoke with me every step of the way. Ben was diagnosed with ADHD, Combined Presentation.

Since then, Ben has made huge leaps in his academics. With the services offered at his school and the information that I’m starting to understand about his diagnosis, I now know how to confidently guide him to help himself become a better student. We just had his IEP meeting to update and adjust his services. Morrissey-Compton has also explained the medication component with facts so that I feel well informed in making decisions on my child’s behalf without feeling guilty or weighed down in judgment.

Getting help from Morrissey-Compton has helped me become a better parent. Raising a boy to become a self-reliant man one day is tough on two parents, and even harder for one. I have always leaned on my family and friends for support and refer to them often as my village. Morrissey Compton is a part of this ever growing village.

First Published in Morrissey-Compton Educational Center’s Summer 2016 Newsletter