

## Parent Testimonials

OT Connection has changed our family forever! We went from a frustrated family to a fun-loving family. David is our only child, and from minute one I knew he was different from a "normal" baby by his cry. It was a high-pitched, heart wrenching squeal like he was in constant pain. And, that cry didn't stop for the first six months of his life. He had severe reflux which later would add to his oral aversions. By the time he could feed himself, he already narrowed down his food choices on his own. As a toddler, David would run away from me, and I even considered him a flight risk. At playgroup, I was the only mother not able to sit down, for David was always getting into other people's things! Even though I was a tough disciplinarian, David's behavior in public made me feel like I was a bad mom in other people's eyes.

By David's third birthday, I was asking his Pediatrician if he could have Sensory Integration Dysfunction as his teachers were suggesting to me. His Pediatrician said that Occupational Therapy was not what David needed, if he even needed anything at all! Boy, was he wrong!!! Three months later my son was gagging and throwing up when I vowed to "make" him eat a veggie. Also, he didn't want to eat his food while I was sitting next to him with my own "Mommy food", as David calls it. I knew I needed to take him to get help. That is when we met Katie Shaffer, our Angel!!!!

Within one month of Occupational Therapy with Katie Shaffer two times a week, David was no longer considered by me to be a flight risk. Meaning I didn't have to have a death grip on his arm when we got out of the car in the parking lot. Also, meaning he no longer would try to run out of the locked front door! This is when I was sold on OT, and sold on Katie as a living Angel! We think she hung the moon! David wanted to go "play" with Katie twice a week! We never had to convince him to go!

We have gone to visit Katie weekly for a little over two years now. And, as David enters his third month of Kindergarten (he didn't even need to be held back), he is further showing me and my husband, Mark, how Katie has helped us shape our extremely loving little boy! She has been a mentor and a teacher for David as well as for me and my husband! I don't know what our family life would have been like without her in it!!! We owe so much to Katie, and we will never forget her dedication, hard work, and loving touch! She has never ceased to amaze me with her undying patience with David and all of his behavioral issues! Katie will continue to be part of our family for the rest of our lives!

Thank you, Katie, for giving us a promising future for David and our family! You truly are our Angel!!!

With Deep Love,  
Jana and Mark, and David, of course!



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Hello, my name is Gemma. I have a son with autism. His name is Juandiego. He is 7 years old now. He was diagnosed with autism at the age of 2. To all of you that have a child with this disability, I'm sure you remember that day very well. That is the beginning of the journey of our lives. Many thoughts come to your mind. It is like entering a dark forest with no tools or weapons to make the road clear to you. You know that school services are not enough for your child's success. You need to look for help you can trust, for someone that not only understand your situation but understands and connects with your child's world.

That was what I found at OT connection clinic.

The very first day I crossed that door, I took my son to his favorite place to learn, the place where he felt happy, where he found support and connection with his school teachings and his family life.

I read one time somewhere : "Attitude is everything" and that's what you see, feel and live every time your child is working with each one of the therapists at OT Connection.

My son had so many feeding disorders and sensory issues as well. I never imagined that I could see him eating different foods and textures but Katie Shaffer and her dedicated team help me and my son to reach that dream.

I left Texas and moved to the East Coast with another child, completely different than the one I took for the first time to OT Connection. That was the only place I felt so, so sorry to leave behind because that was the ONLY place where I found hope, dedication and love.

I'm still walking the "hopeful pad" for my little one but I will never, NEVER forget OT connection.

Believe me or not... I'm still looking for a place like that and I haven't found it yet!



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Our daughter Gracie was born with Down Syndrome. At age 3 months, Janet began working with Gracie who is now 2 years old. There are several things that we appreciate about Janet. First, she has a wealth of information and experience to share with us. This in turn helps us to better understand Gracie's gross motor skill needs and development. Second, Janet works with us on how we can help Gracie. In this way we are able to take the exercises and strategies that Gracie does in therapy and transition them into her daily routine at home. This contributes to Gracie's overall acquisition of milestones. Lastly, Janet cares deeply about Gracie. This compassion helps Gracie to reach her maximum potential in a positive and loving way. We are thankful for Janet!

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OT Connection is a wonderful place. We have a five-year old son who visits OT Connection three times per week for speech, physical, and occupational therapy. In less than a month, we had already noticed a huge improvement in his development. When he first started going, he moved slowly, hardly said anything, and was uncomfortable using his hands for complex manipulation. After several months of therapy, he now moves quickly, is becoming steady on his feet, verbalizes phrases, attempts to repeat things, and tries to use his hands to accomplish his goals.

We have nothing but praise for this wonderful facility and all of their staff. Our son's therapists have been exceptional and are highly recommended (PT: Janet Magajna, ST: Megan Hamilton, OT: Shannon Brown & Summer Young). The entire staff at OT Connection is friendly and helpful and always has a smile; from the front desk to the director.

Even more important than how we feel about OT Connection, is how our son feels. He loves to go to therapy and "play". He adores his therapists and they obviously care about him and his development. This makes a big difference in his therapy.

The facility itself is great with big gyms for physical work and pair sessions as well as several smaller rooms for more personal sessions. They even have an outdoor area for when the weather is nice.

We could not be more pleased with OT Connection and they are worthy of our highest recommendation!



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