

Our daughter Sophie was diagnosed with Verbal Apraxia at two years of age. At that time, she had only a few actual words and some made up words. To put it mildly, I put a lot of time and thought into picking the best speech pathologist. I only wanted "the best" for our daughter. I interviewed several professionals in the field and asked numerous parents in the community who had the greatest reputation. I received Melissa Huse's name over and over again, and after meeting her for the first time, I immediately understood why. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude is contagious. She loves what she does and she is incredibly gifted with children. My daughter, who was typically a "slow to warm" child, bonded with her instantly- literally plopping down on her lap from the get go! Melissa immediately gave us hope. She capitalized on our daughter's strengths and was excited about her successes, no matter how small. Sophie loved her speech therapy sessions, and my husband and I quickly saw a positive change in her speech ability. We also learned a lot by watching and modeling Melissa's techniques. Today, less than one year later, Sophie's verbal skills are exactly where they should be; and she is happier, playful, and more confident. There is a "light" in her eyes that was not there before. I can't say enough good things about Melissa. I am grateful that I found her and that she was able to work with our daughter. She is a top-notch professional and a really neat person to boot. I must add, several months ago, I was tucking Sophie into bed and said, "I love you"- she immediately wrapped her arms around my neck and for the first time replied, "I love you more!" I thought, "Thank you Melissa!" You are a gift!

Laura Exarhou Cowlen

Mother of Sophie Cowlen, age 3