




Restoring Balance, Restoring Lives

Brain Balance is serving emotionally and academically delayed children with amazing results.



Initially, Patty and Paul Iafelice had little reason to believe that the Brain Balance Center they had seen advertised could help their severely physically, emotionally and academically delayed 8-year-old son. Nothing else had. Tens of thousands of dollars, countless doctor visits, testing, special ed, IEP and their own diligence had not helped Angelo to thrive. “He weighed barely 40 pounds, he couldn’t read or talk coherently, and he was in a constant state of rage. The advertisements for Brain Balance sounded too good to be true, but we had to try it. It was tearing our family apart, and we had no other options,” Patty explains.

Young Angelo’s life was a struggle from the beginning. Born 10 weeks early and weighing under 3 pounds, Angelo was slow to walk or speak while his fraternal twin, Benito, progressed normally. “At 2, he spoke less than a dozen words. And despite speech, occupational and physical therapy, special education, and our constant attention, he made little progress and had become a sullen and disturbed child. When he turned 8, he barely weighed 40 pounds, he was fatigued all the time and could read only a dozen words. Yet, none of the doctors we took him to seemed particularly concerned or offered us any help,” Paul recounts. “Brain Balance sounded too good to be true, but it made sense, and we had to do something.”

“When I met Angelo late last year, I knew that we could help him,” affirms Dr. Peter Scire, executive director of the local Brain Balance Centers. “He was a child with severe learning delays compounded by several years of little academic

progress which had created a high level of frustration and anger. But our program is designed to help children just like him, and I knew with the right assessment we could develop an individual plan for him that would be successful.”

Angelo’s assessment included a blood analysis that revealed he had metabolic allergies. “Dr. Pete suggested some nutritional changes, eliminating milk and egg whites, adding supplements, and within a month we started seeing a great physical improvement—he became stronger and calmer and less fatigued and irritable.” In conjunction with the nutritional changes, Angelo began attending sessions at Brain Balance three times a week for an hour of exercises designed to specifically stimulate the weak side



of his brain. “Initially Angelo didn’t want to go and made it difficult. But Dr. Pete taught us how to deal with his emotional outbursts, and we did everything he said to do—the supplements, the at-home programs and the diet changes. The outbursts subsided after the first month, and after three months he was reading nearly 400 words. He couldn’t add one-plus-one before, and now he’s adding three-digit numbers. Angelo just took off and is thriving,” Patty says. “His teachers have been amazed, and we have been astounded.”

“We now know that the most accurate diagnosis for children like Angelo and children often diagnosed with autism, Asperger’s, Tourette’s, AD/HD, dyslexia and other learning disabilities is actually *Functional Disconnection Syndrome* or *FDS*,” explains Scire, a board-eligible chiropractic neurologist. “The latest functional MRI brain research shows that in FDS there is a functional disconnection between the two hemispheres of the brain. The hemispheres of the brain are essentially out of synch. One hemisphere processes information at a slower speed, like dial-up and the other hemisphere is processing at DSL speed,” he explains.

“First we determine if a child exhibiting abnormal emotional, social, physical



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**~ Dr. Pete Scire,
executive director of Brain Balance Centers**

and academic symptoms has FDS. After we determine which hemisphere is functioning abnormally, we design a specific program integrating physical (sensory and motor) activities, cognitive exercises, and supportive nutritional initiatives for each child.” Scire says. “We literally change the brain through exercising the circuits and retraining the hemispheres to communicate effectively. The brain is designed to be in balance, so once you strengthen the weaker hemisphere, the negative symptoms disappear. We’re all delighted with Angelo’s progress. He’s done quite well. He’s on the path to learning now. He knows now that he is capable of learning, that if he works, he will succeed. We’ve seen hundreds of success stories like his.”

“It’s not a magic pill—it took a lot of work and commitment—but our son is excelling. He’s moved to a regular classroom for most of the day, and he actually made the honor roll and was awarded the Distinguished Effort Award for the entire school. Most importantly, he has so much self-confidence now. He knows that if he does the work, there’s nothing he can’t achieve,” his dad says proudly.

For more information, go to www.brainbalancega.com or call the Roswell location at 770.650.8010 or the Suwanee office at 770.614.4790.

Photography by Jack Tuszynski

WHAT IS FUNCTIONAL DISCONNECTION SYNDROME?

FDS is a functional imbalance of brain activity within each side and/or between the right and left sides of the brain. Current research continues to describe this as brain under-connectivity, desynchronization and/or functional disconnection syndrome. The brain literally becomes desynchronized or ‘out of rhythm’, so just as an orchestra may be filled with extremely gifted musicians, the music played will sound horrible if the musicians play out of rhythm with each other. The brain, too, must function ‘in rhythm’ or in synchronicity.

The discovery of hemispheric imbalance led world-renowned neurological researcher Dr. Robert Melillo to found the original Brain Balance Center in New York more than a decade ago. For more information, read his new book, “Disconnected Kids: The Groundbreaking Brain Balance Program for Children with Autism, AD/HD, Dyslexia and Other Neurological Disorders.”