

Pyramid Educational Consultants first opened its doors for business in 1992. Known for the Picture Communication Exchange System, or PECS, the company branched out into several countries, covering communication barriers for not only those with autism, but many other forms of developmental disabilities. The following is a success story from a woman in West Ireland on her experience with PECS.

I'm a foster parent living in Galway (West Ireland). Last year I took this course (PECS Basic Training) along with teachers at our foster child's new school – He (James, my foster son) is coming on fantastically with it, words cannot describe the incredible positive difference PECS has brought to his and our lives.

I could never find the words to explain the difference PECS made to our wee man and our family - he joined our family in April last year coming from an extremely neglected start in life. He was 6yrs, deaf, diagnosed with severe autism. As well as being left with no communication at all, he had also been forced to wear nappies all his entire life and feed only on crisps, custard creams and yogurts so he was just 4% on growth chart and had a disjointed hip (which actually turned out to be James twisting his leg around the other leg so he could hold in from soiling on himself). He was in such a cocoon of pain and frustration he had no eye contact and as mentioned absolutely no way to communicate: we were told that maybe he would never learn communication. I took the PECS course and taught him this last summer, he was unbelievably quick.

The first time he ran into the house, opened his book, gave me the PEC for 'sausage', took my hand and led me to the stove I cried and cried, I would have made him a bucket of sausages! - I'm still crying now when I think about that moment. Using PECS had brought such motivation, confidence, sense of self empowerment and calmness to James that his eye contact had gone from approx 10% to now almost 100% at home and maybe 70% at his new school (what a fight it was to get him accepted into a school here!)

James not only gave me purpose but also taught me not to compare present life to the past; he has taught me so much about my own self being and brought so much to our family. In having to find the strength and courage to stand up and fight for what I knew was right for him, I had to find my own voice (another gift James has given me)!

PECS was the foundation of so many things that has helped us bring James to where he is now. He was once also diagnosed with Attachment Disorder and would hit himself or others if they came near him. Now he stands very strong, funny, playful, aware, connected and loves to be held, touched, snuggled, tickled and loved.

The power of positivity goes a lot further than negativity.

Thank you once more - I'll never stop thanking you!

Kelly