

CAPITOL SCHOOL STUDENTS THEN & NOW

Jennifer



AT CAPITOL SCHOOL...1997

For our Family, the road to CSA was paved with many bumps, twists and turns. It was a hard-traveled road, as it is for many parents, from the slow realization that something is “just not right” with your child to the anxiety ridden choices for the right kind of therapy, the most knowledgeable health care providers and the best educational environment.

Jenny was the oldest of our two children. She never liked to be held and wouldn't snuggle up to your body. She was plagued with chronic ear infections. She was late to walk despite us working with her all the time; she just couldn't get her balance. In play groups she was very active and always getting into things. She didn't seem to feel pain like other children. When she would look at the park play equipment, she didn't know where to begin or what to do. When Jennifer attended a mother's day out program at Tarrytown church, I started to notice the differences between her and the other children in her class. During her end of year conference, the school provided the tests they had used to track developmental progress. Jennifer scored much lower than her peers in some areas. As parents we were so frustrated because we didn't have a handbook to tell us what to do if our child was broken? We took positive parenting classes at “For Kids Sake” with Claire Flynn. She observed Jennifer and confirmed what the teacher had observed. She felt Jen probably had some kind of Processing Disorder, and directed us to get a professional diagnosis and to visit a school (Capitol School) for children with speech, language and learning differences. At first I was horrified. But we pressed forward. We began Occupational Therapy with Rehabilitation for Sensory Integration Dysfunction. We went to Dr. Maureen Adair, who diagnosed Jennifer with ADHD and an expressive/receptive language disorder. And then we looked at CSA. After careful consideration, we enrolled Jen in CSA that Fall. We had many ups and downs the first year, but I knew it was the right place for her. I found the CSA staff to be some of the most gifted, supportive and loving people, I had ever encountered. Every day I am so thankful for all the help and intervention Jennifer has received from the wonderful professionals that have become some of my closest friends. The school has been our lifeline on this rocky road. I truly believe we would not be where we are today if it weren't for Amy Cunningham and the entire staff at Capitol School of Austin.



TODAY...

Jennifer Zeitz attended Capitol School from the ages of 3-10. She then went to Odyssey until 8th grade and then transferred to McCallum High School in 9th grade. She received her diploma in 2008. Jenny is now 20 years old and is currently going to school at Austin Community College where she is hoping to get her associates degree in Child Development. She is also working part time at HEB and in June, she will have been there for 2 years. She has been driving for almost 2 years now and can maneuver most places in town. Her plans for the future are to continue at ACC and working for HEB. She loves to read and write and she loves being with her family going on vacations.

