

S U C C E S S S T O R I E S



Our Success Stories series was created as a way to communicate with our friends and donors in an efficient, inexpensive format. Each month, we feature one of our programs and the inspiring story of a child whom the program has helped. To be added to the Success Stories email list, just send your complete e-mail address to successtories@eliada.org.

When Johanna came to Eliada's More at Four III class in 2006, she was perhaps the shyest young girl the teachers had ever seen. For the first four months, she would not speak above a whisper to one of her teachers, and did not speak at all to another until five months into the school year! She interacted with other children, but would never speak out in a group.

Through participation in music activities, exposure to many other children her age, and the support of the More at Four staff, Johanna began to gradually come out of her shell. She loved the songs they learned in class, and benefited from the diversity and example of other children around her. She spoke in a group for the first time in January. During 'circle time', she told

her classmates about her Christmas gifts. While she remained very shy and rarely spoke in group settings, this represented a real turning point for Johanna.

Participation in More at Four allowed Johanna to enter kindergarten as a more confident, expressive child. Now, she attends Evergreen Charter School; even recently participating in the re-telling of the story of Cinderella on audio tape! Her mother reported feeling a great deal of pride and surprise upon hearing her daughter's voice on audio tape. For a child who was unable to even speak with others at the start of More at Four, this represented significant progress.

Johanna stays in touch with her More at Four teachers. She now initiates conversations with adults and her peers, and is interacting with others much more comfortably.



Johanna, May 2007