

Susan's LearnUp Story

A 66-year old with a traumatic brain injury relearns how to read.

“When we first looked into support programs, there were no resources to help my wife relearn how to read. LearnUp has been a godsend.”

Carl, Susan's husband, goes on to say...

Prior to her retirement at age 60, Susan was a Nurse Practitioner in Adult Medicine, a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Psychiatry, and an instructor in the Master's Nursing Program at the University of California San Francisco. And she loved to read.

In August of 2016, Susan fell at home and suffered a traumatic brain injury. She required a craniotomy, which is the removal of a portion of her skull to reduce swelling in the brain. This resulted in an inability to read, to drive, and to taste food.

After her accident, Susan was hospitalized for nearly three months. During that time, she was involved in speech, physical, and occupational therapy classes. Upon her return home she continued outpatient therapy at Davies Medical Center in the City, mainly with a focus on speech therapy.

As her husband, I was very concerned about her inability to read. I retired from my position as a senior law enforcement officer in May of 2017 to see if I could find a program that would go beyond what she was accomplishing in speech therapy and actually help her read again.

Fortunately, we found LearnUp Centers.



Susan's Reading Chart

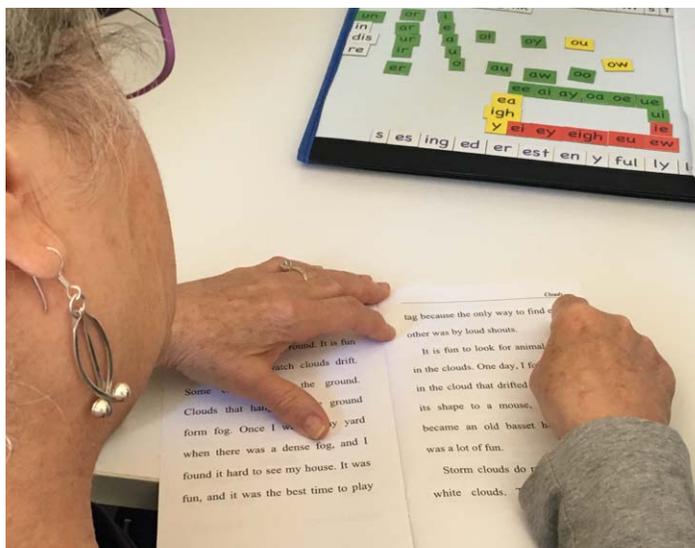
	June 2017	October 2017
Grade	Graduate Level Degree, Physician's Assistant	Graduate Level Degree
Reading Level	<Kindergarten	≥5th
Fluency (Words per Minute)	37 pre-K Grade Level	60 4.7 Grade Level
LearnUp Sessions (Hours)	0	48

“I love to read, but after my accident, I couldn’t. Now, thanks to LearnUp, I am getting it back.”

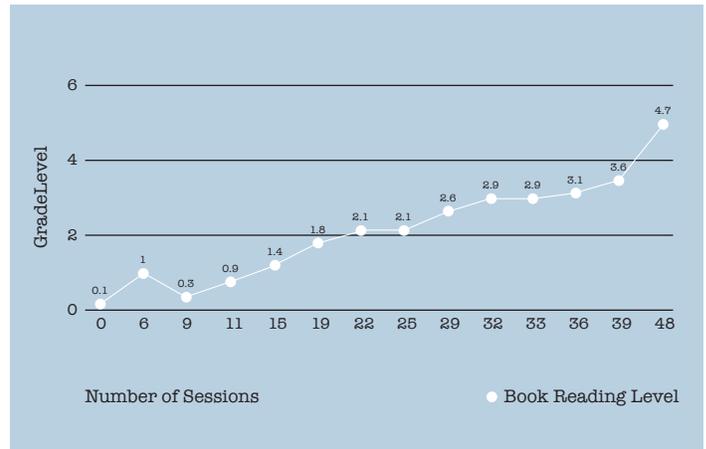
Susan, LearnUp student

The results of the LearnUp program are amazing. Within the first 20 sessions Susan was reading again. She started out by learning phonics and the symbols for the letters, and soon moved on through dozens of books. When Susan was initially evaluated by her rehabilitative specialist in January of 2017, she could read less than 1% of the words presented to her. When she was reevaluated in July of 2017 she was reading at a 90%+ level proficiency. With this improvement, she has been allowed by the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a driving permit and attend a driving school for persons with disabilities. The doctors were absolutely amazed by her progress.

Susan continues to make steady progress and we can now see the day when reading will no longer be the laborious process it was when we started this program.



Susan’s Reading Progress Snapshot



“Susan’s alexia symptoms due to severe brain injury were very similar to the symptoms we see in our most severe dyslexic students. We designed a modified program to help stimulate her reading brain and get her lexia back. She has made incredible strides in the past 4 months.”

Steve Tattum, Director of Reading at LearnUp

The average LearnUp student increases her word fluency by more than 50%, gaining over 44 words per minute in fluency and jumping 2.0 grade levels in reading—all in just under 60 hours of tutoring.

To sign up for a free reading assessment email: stevehagler@learnupcenters.org or call: Steve Hagler at 415.944.READ