

One child whose life has been turned around by support from the caring staff at Hatton School



Aliyah, who is now eight years old, lives with her mother, father and older sister in Redbridge. She joined Hatton in Year One at the age of five after her mainstream primary school couldn't cope with her behaviour. After making good progress she is now attending a Hatton satellite class based in a local mainstream school.



Outreach help

Sending her daughter to Hatton gave Aliyah's Mum her life back. She says: 'While Aliyah was at her mainstream school she wasn't getting an education, which was frustrating for both her and me. It was a horrible time and I really didn't feel there was

anyone out there who could help me, but one phone call to Hatton Outreach changed all that. They were very sympathetic and understanding and invited me into the school to look round.

Improved speech

'I saw children with many different needs and to begin with thought my little girl shouldn't be going there. But within a short time of starting at Hatton I saw a big change in her. After just three months Hatton started to have an effect on her and she was talking more and becoming more approachable.'

Good nursery

Aliyah had been diagnosed as borderline autistic when she was at nursery but the staff there had been fantastic, her Mum says. 'But once she started at her mainstream primary school she didn't get on at all well. When she was in the reception class she never did a full day at school. I would drop her off in the morning and by half past nine I was picking her up again. They would say Aliyah has kicked off and they couldn't cope with her.'

Making progress

'At the beginning I felt as though I was pushed into sending her to Hatton. I felt as though I was giving up on her. But if I had known Hatton the way I know it now I would have sent her there when she was in nursery because the sooner the staff start working with the children, the more they can help them. Aliyah is now a lot calmer. Her speech was delayed but now she is speaking to me and telling me her needs. She's also reading and writing and her Maths is better.'

Moving on

'In September last year she moved to Hatton's satellite class in a mainstream school. She is still with children from Hatton who are on her level and she is being looked after by Hatton staff, but she is now being exposed to elements of life in a mainstream school. I was a bit scared to begin with but Aliyah really enjoys it. It is like a dream come true for me because I always wanted Aliyah to go back into mainstream education eventually. I know at the moment she could not cope in a class of 30, so this class is the best of both worlds for her.'

Building confidence

'At Hatton they realised Aliyah was an able child and was able to communicate her needs well and that she just needed extra support. She started doing one day a week in the satellite class and then it was decided she was ready to move to the class full time. It is giving her the opportunity to grow in confidence, by gradually mixing with children in a mainstream school, attending some of their classes and doing activities with them,' her Mum says.

Family time

'Aliyah is now starting to learn how to make friends and how to give and take. She is now also very loving towards me and her behaviour is a lot less aggressive. I can now enjoy spending time with her. Hatton has made my life so much better. I now even have a part-time job and we feel like a normal family again.'



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