

Teaching Nazli in Turkish and English

Mim Kemal Okè

Istanbul, Turkey

A letter from Nazli's father

Nazli



Now about Nazli. Nazli is almost ten and is now going to a mainstream school called ENKA in Istanbul, Turkey. The school is partially run by Americans, based on multiple intelligences and the Berkeley GEMS programme.

Nazli is the only child with Down syndrome in the class, but although there is a special instructor for her at school this year she has integrated herself fully with the rest of the class. Nazli is now in the third year and we have no specific problems in her development. She is taking ballet and piano lessons and she's quite a girl indeed. She is trying to speak English full sentences at home.

Nazli knew how to read and write before she went to school. As a matter of fact she started to read when she was 3½.

Nazli was 1 year old when we visited The Sarah Duffen Centre in the UK and Sue and Gillian showed us the flash cards. Thanks to you we learned how to teach her to read. With the material you gave us we started first of all with flash cards, Makaton and Portage at home. Of course we adapted them to Turkish. When she was 3½, she could use short sentences; we started to practise with non picture sentences. Her pronunciation and grammar have always been exceptionally good. She is talkative at home but she improved at school. She refuses to speak on the phone and says "I cannot see them father".

With respect to second language: Nazli went to a mixed prepschool run by an English lady where she started to get used to hearing English. ENKA is a bilingual school and Nazli loves reading the Ladybird series. Again we taught her English by using the same Buckley method, i.e. using flash cards, but this time they were in English. Now she can make sentences in English.

We love her and we are ever so grateful to you.

Name: Nazli Hilal Okè		Date: 29 Dec 2000		Class: Eco Endat Gececek	
Grade 3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING					
	Beginning	Approaching	Reading		
READING	Shows an interest in English books, stories, and poems.	Can finger point and follow a text. Reads some words and phrases.	Can read captions and simple stories in English.		
WRITING	Can copy letters, words, and simple captions.	Can write some basic words from memory. Can construct simple sentences with help.	Can construct a short story independently.		
SPEAKING	Can use some English vocabulary, such as colours, numbers, and animals.	Able to use short phrases connected to some vocabulary, such as I like I don't like, I can, She is, etc.	Can understand simple questions, add a simple story, respond to instructions with understanding.		
LISTENING	Can listen and attend to a story or simple instructions in English for a few minutes.	Can listen and respond to stories and poems and simple instructions for 10 minutes.	Can concentrate and respond appropriately to questions and maintain focus for a lesson for 10 minutes or more.		
Social Skills: Doesn't display confidence in social situations.		Attitude: Respectful Eager to learn			
Strengths: Good at learning English		Personal Challenges: Struggles to co-operate in class independently i.e. without support			
Parent Comments:					
Teacher: E. G. Gececek				Date: 29.12.2000	