

April 16, 2004

Dear Parents:

Alex and I have been working with activities to help improve his comprehension and writing abilities. He continues to be willing and eager to complete the tasks asked of him.

On March 29th, we completed a comprehension activity. Alex was asked to make predictive connections between words dealing with character, setting and the problem before we read *The Story of Justin Morgan* in the book Five True Horse Stories. At first Alex was a little hesitant, but as he became comfortable with the activity, he showed careful consideration of how the words should be connected.

On April 5th, we worked with an activity for our enhanced writing goal. We read some sentences and then selected a word from each sentence to look up in the thesaurus. From the thesaurus, we selected a word to replace the target word in order to make the sentences more interesting and vivid. Alex began helping find the words immediately and seemed to enjoy finding similar words.

On April 7th, Alex used the pictures in the book, Four Hungry Kittens by Emily Arnold McCully to dictate a story. His story included the basic elements of a story: characters, setting, problem and steps leading to a resolution. He seemed to enjoy this activity, and I had a hard time typing as fast as he was dictating the story.

On April 12th, we completed another comprehension activity. Before we read from the book, Sea Turtles: Ocean Nomads by Mary M. Cerullo, Alex thought of all the things he knew about sea turtles and we created a list of these ideas. After we read the story, we did the same thing, only this time we wrote down all the things he had learned from the reading about sea turtles. I believe he was even surprised at his ability to create such a long list of new things.

On April 14th, we worked with adding details to paragraphs to make them more interesting. We read a couple of paragraphs and compared which one would we could "see" a better picture in our minds and which one we would like to read more about. As an end to the activity, Alex created his own paragraph adding details to describe a picture he had selected.

My instructor and I are very, very pleased with the progress that Alex has made during our sessions. Sadly, our last session will be April 28th. During the week of May 3, I would like to set up a time with you to share the tutoring portfolio that Alex and I have put together. At this time I will also share a final tutoring report. We can discuss this

more next week to find a time that will work the best for all of us.

Thank you,
Carrie D.