

Meet Parker

A Communication Hub resource

(electronic bubbles pop)

(note swooshes)

(gentle upbeat music)

- My name is Parker Lawrence and I am 15, and this is my story. I work at Urban Extreme on weekends and my hobby is mainly basketball, photography and skydiving.

- I'm Louise, I'm Parker's mum. Every day is different with Parker. He's certainly a very talented and unique young man. He's certainly an adrenaline junkie. He loves getting out there and trying different things.

- I was diagnosed with DLD last year at the end. So it didn't really impact me that much it just connected the dots more.

- I knew from a very early age that there was something different about Parker. He was diagnosed with Executive Dysfunction, social-emotion issues very early. So he would get very frustrated very easily because he couldn't communicate exactly. He was then diagnosed with dyslexia, and it wasn't until the DLD diagnosis that completed the puzzle.

- Verbal communication can be very limited and can be one worded. So his facial expressions tell you everything. There is no filter. So that can be an extremely challenging thing at times especially at school.

- When the teachers don't communicate with you about everything, that was hard. In the class it's hard to focus when you have that. So, getting distracted easy. In class if I have a question, I would rather go to the teacher after class than ask for it in class, or send them an email. Don't really want to ask for help in front of people.

- We did a lot of communication courses. So when he was four and five with the social-emotion skills and we did a lot of group work.

(chattering)

- I'm really good with adapting now because I had like help with it, adapting with people. So that's getting easier, talk to new people

- With his role at Urban Extreme, I think that's helped him communicate a great deal 'cause that's a huge, a huge role to jump into when you're not sort of good at verbal communication.

- The best way for people to communicate with me is probably repeating stuff, getting through my head that I know what I'm doing, and going slowly, so talking slowly. Or at school, they put it on the whiteboard or like they write it down somewhere. So you can just see where you are.

- He can't fit into the way that I communicate. I have to learn the way he communicates, and I have to modify what I do to help him learn how to communicate in his way.

(Instructor) - Time to jump, harness is tight, goggles on, slide the door, feet out--

- Think it's pretty important to communicate with people so you can get your point across or like talk to them and not be like isolated just by yourself.

- The most important time for him to communicate would be when he's struggling or when he's in trouble. And they're probably the hardest times.

- Whether you're, you know, two, 12 or 24, it shouldn't matter, you should be able to communicate, across the board. Communication should be everyone's right.

- He taught me how to fly, like, to use a parachute. So that was good.

(gentle upbeat music)