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PROFILE of SUCCESS



### Meet Tyson

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a tough diagnosis, but it may prove no match for Tyson Alexander McLean of Jonesboro, Arizona.

This high-spirited and highly motivated Valley View Elementary School kindergartener not only enjoys the love and support of two devoted parents, two sets of grandparents, and multiple aunts, uncles, and cousins, he is also impressing his SLP and other educators and therapists with his quick and determined mastery of the PRC Pathfinder™.



The McLeans first learned of the Pathfinder through a study conducted by PRC's John Halloran at The Learning Center in Jonesboro, where Tyson was a preschooler. The study sought to demonstrate how using the Pathfinder could encourage children with autism to start using language.

Today, Tyson spends half his school day in a regular kindergarten class, the other half in a special education class and is beginning to initiate using his Pathfinder in these environments. According to his current speech therapist, Nita Stillwell, "our goal is to increase his functional usage of the device in the self-contained and regular classrooms."

### Tyson's Progress Continues

Stillwell is confident Tyson will achieve the goal because, she says, "his greatest strengths are his desire to communicate and his willingness to learn how to use the device. Tyson thinks using the Pathfinder in the therapy room is fun!"

Halloran is also excited about Tyson's potential. "Tyson has continued to make nice progress," he reports. "He started out needing a masking sheet and physical cues on his device. In just a few weeks, the masking sheet was taken away. He can combine up to four icons to make a simple request."

Tyson's vocalizations and eye contact improve when he is communicating with others via the Pathfinder, Halloran notes, "and he uses the Pathfinder not only to communicate expressively but also to learn new words receptively. His auditory comprehension is improved by seeing a reaction to a word."