

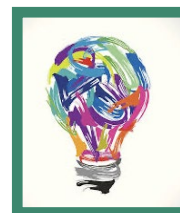


# ALABAMA GAME CHANGERS

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2111 Parkway Office Circle, Suite 150  
Hoover, AL 35244  
205.364.2347  
alabamagamechangers.org

**AGC** was started with a simple idea. How can an organization be an innovative merger between the medical and educational communities to help struggling learners in Alabama? Can neurological (brain) science, speech therapy, and occupational therapy play a role? Can early intervention focus on building **STRONGER** language foundations that a child can later use to build great reading skills?



**AGC believes the answer is YES, science can be merged with education.** This philosophy is what makes us unique; AGC is a non-profit medical center that addresses a wide variety of medical, psychological, physical, learning, and behavioral issues all under one roof.



**Early** intervention and successful remediation for struggling readers starts at the beginning with the building blocks. Reading, spelling, and writing are all higher-level language skills. What science has shown us for decades is that the building blocks of language always start with **SOUNDS**.

## Understanding The Science

**When** you first learned to ride a bicycle, your brain had to accept and coordinate your balance, center of gravity, left/right sequence, speed, direction, and position in space. It didn't all happen on your first try.

- After several (or maybe many) attempts, the recruited brain cells (neurons) started communicating with each other by firing electrical signals.
- The more attempts, the better the brain connections, and eventually, those neurons "learned" what to do.

You've been riding a bicycle ever since neurons that fire together wire together. Neural connections you made at age 6 are still intact at age 60 and you can still ride.

- Reading happens the same way starting with word precursors called phonemes (the basic unit of sounds). Your brain coordinates hearing how a phoneme sounds, seeing what a phoneme looks like when someone else says it, and feeling how a phoneme feels when you say it. The more repetition that occurs, the more connections are strengthened, and the phonemes become automatic.



**There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.**

— Nelson Mandela

## A Struggling Child

A young man (we'll call him Brian) was struggling to pass the ninth grade. Feeling like a failure, he was drowning in a sea of illiteracy, unable to complete his daily scholastic tasks. Discouraged and depressed, his weaknesses were academically and socially crippling. His parents were desperate to find help; they knew their son had a bright, unlimited future if he could just get past the learning struggles. Brian was having difficulty with reading, math, and written expression due to a language disorder, visual processing deficits, dyslexia, and ADHD.

1

### IDENTIFY

Test and evaluate to determine the causes of the problem

2

### TREAT

Deliver effective intervention based on the specific needs

3

### SUPPORT

Provide academic help and psychological encouragement

## The Impact

Brian began an intensive 16-week program and worked hard every day, determined to overcome his challenges. When starting his program, he had multiple areas of weakness including the inability to sound out words, to read, to write, to understand directions well, to process information visually, and to express himself verbally. All of these deficits were below the 16th percentile for age-matched peers.

After completing the program, testing showed tremendous progress; Brian reached the 50th percentile in multiple areas in just a few short months. He returned to his high school a different student. He is now making A's and B's, playing sports, and thriving socially and academically. He is confident now, believing that the future he wanted is achievable

### Expanding The Impact!

In the first two years, AGC has helped many children both near and far. **Please take a look at the enclosed insert.**

AGC has helped clients from 43 Alabama counties and 18 states, fielding more than 5000 inquiries and hosting over 2500 clinic visits. AGC has evaluated and remediated hundreds of clients, and all this amid lockdowns during the years of pandemic.

The need is limitless but AGC's ability to meet the need is not. Some of what we do is not covered by insurance. Many children who need our help come from families that cannot afford therapy.

You can help us make a difference. Join our band of faithful supporters who share a passion for our mission. Your tax-deductible donations provide lasting impact, changing lives and families. Please note that 100% of all charitable donations go toward helping children in need.

***Come support our May 19<sup>th</sup> fundraiser!***

American Idol WINNER

IT'S A SOUL THING

FEATURING TAYLOR HICKS AND THE TAYLOR HICKS BAND WITH SPECIAL GUEST TREY DUNCAN

PRESENTED BY ALABAMA GAME CHANGERS AND SAMFORD UNIVERSITY WRIGHT CENTER

MAY 19TH, 2023 @ 7PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SAMFORD.EDU/WRIGHTCENTER