



Garden Pathways Academic Enhancement and After School Program QUARTERLY REPORT: MARCH 2009 Success Stories

*As part of the **gang prevention** initiative of the strategic plan of the Joint City/County Standing Committee to Combat Gang Violence, students from Williams Elementary School have had the opportunity to participate in Garden Pathways' E3 Performing Arts after-school and summer day camp programs since January 2008. Williams School is located in the area of Bakersfield with the highest rate of juvenile probationers per square mile (as per the Kern County Probation Department). This initiative is being funded by the County of Kern and administered by the Kern County Department of Human Services.*

The following comments were offered by teachers from Williams School, parents, students, and Garden Pathways staff. The names of participants have been changed.

Martin

Martin's mother reports, "Martin is a new boy! He is more confident, more outgoing, and is playing better with his brothers at home. He was struggling at school with paying attention and was not doing his homework." Since Martin's mother requested help from the E3 staff, Martin has been showing more interest in class. Martin's mother happily shared, "Martin has been finishing his homework and has been turning it in on time."

Martin's teacher expressed her thanks to E3 for helping to keep him on task with his homework. He is showing more focus in class and is getting fewer marks on the board.

"I like E3 and I like showing my gymnastics moves to my brothers," says Martin.

Jennifer

"I love the E3 program," exclaims Jennifer's mom. "Jennifer used to run all over the neighborhood after school. My husband and I were worried about the kids she was spending time with. Since joining E3, she now goes to a safe place where she sings, dances, gets help with her homework, and is making good friendships. She is also showing a **confidence we've never seen** as she performs with Broadway Beginnings."

Jennifer's teacher at Williams School reports, "Jennifer used to be disruptive in class and didn't show much interest in her studies. She is now **participating in discussions**, has **improved in reading**, and is **showing more effort**."

Jennifer writes, "I like that I am getting along better with my group of friends. I think I'm learning to be nicer. I also like singing in Broadway Bound and going to places I've never been before."

Aaron

Since joining E3, Aaron has shown great courage in the midst of dealing with very hard family issues. Aaron, already a bit mischievous, found himself taking his anger out on the other students by making bad choices to get the attention he needed. He also found it very hard to talk about his feelings. In the past few months, he has started opening up to the staff about his feelings. He is **making much better**

choices. His **confidence** and outgoing manner has caused the other young boys to look to him as a leader.

His teacher at Williams states, “Aaron has become one of my **best students.** He stays on task and is getting **better test scores** in spelling and reading.”

Sophia

Sophia’s mother says, “I never thought Sophia would get the chance to be in a program like this where she could sing, dance, do drama, and do so many things at one place. She has never seemed so **confident and sure of herself.** She is so excited to perform for the first time, and is always walking around the house singing and showing the moves she’s learning to the family. I’m also glad to see her **finishing her homework** and getting the help she needs.”

Sophia’s teacher says that although she is a good student, she is now **more outgoing, more confident,** and is raising her hand to answer questions in class.

Sophia says, “I like my teachers at E3 because they help me with my homework and tell me that I have a good voice.”

Jordan

Jordan’s mom expressed her thanks to the E3 program for giving her son a positive environment in which to learn and grow. She has noticed a **growth in his social and communication skills.** “His **behavior and attitude** are much better at home and at school. Instead of fighting with his brother when he gets home from school, he now goes to E3 and all he can do when he gets home is eat dinner and tell us what he did in class that day.”

Jordan’s gymnastics teacher says, “Jordan used to get so hurt when he couldn’t do certain tumbling techniques. He would want to just give up. After a lot of encouragement, his **confidence** has increased and he is now showing a natural ability for tumbling.”

Jordan’s teacher at Williams has noticed that he is **better behaved** in the classroom and is **focusing more on his class work.**

Caesar

“Caesar is becoming more **social and outgoing** since starting at E3,” says his mom. “He was always a bit withdrawn and didn’t feel comfortable in a group of people. He is now making a lot of friends. Since joining Broadway Beginnings, Caesar is learning how to join in a **team effort.** I can see that his **confidence and sense of self** are growing. Most of all, E3 has given him a place where he can explore his personal gifts and talents. I never could have given him these experiences if it weren’t for E3.”

Caesar’s teacher at Williams writes, “Caesar is a **very good student.** He has become **more involved in the classroom** and is more outgoing with his classmates. He seems **more confidence** and comfortable in his own skin.”

“Caesar has a very good singing voice,” says his Broadway coach. “He was a bit hesitant to do a solo at first, but he now wants to try out for every solo! His **confidence and self-esteem** truly blossom while on stage.”

Caesar states, “I really like performing in Broadway, and I like my teachers and the new friends I’ve made.”

Lili

Lili’s father says, “Lili has really come out of her shell since starting at E3. She was quiet and reserved. She didn’t have any real interests and was shy about trying things. We have seen such growth in her social skills and in her confidence in herself and her talents. She enjoys performing and is **doing better in school**, especially in her **math** and **finishing her homework**. When we found out my wife was pregnant, we noticed that Lili started acting up at home and was being disrespectful to her mom. We went to the E3 staff and told them that we were considering pulling her out as a punishment. The staff started spending one-on-one time with Lili and helped her work through her feelings of being replaced. We are happy to see that she is doing much better at home. She is **showing respect**, is helping around the house, and is looking forward to having a little sister.”

Lili’s teacher at Williams states, “Lili’s **confidence continues to grow**. She **participates in class** discussions and is showing **improvement in math** and in her **communication skills**. She has **fewer absences**.

Lili states, “E3 is great. I get to sing and dance at the fair. I get to go on field trips to places I haven’t been to before. My teachers are nice.”



Garden Pathways
Academic Enhancement and After School Program
QUARTERLY REPORT: June 2009
Success Stories

Agreement with Garden Pathways After-School Care for the provision of Services and Programs aimed at Combating Gang Violence through Prevention and Intervention strategies in accordance with the Gang Violence Prevention Project

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Andrew

Andrew's father reports, "I have noticed a big change in Andrew since he joined the E3 program. He **pays more attention to doing his homework** and is doing his work in class at school. His teacher says he is **more focused** and likes answering questions in class discussions. He isn't goofing off in class as much, either. At the end of the school year Andrew had **improved his grades in math and spelling.**" "E3 has been a big help since my wife and I split up. Andrew is very angry and has had trouble adjusting to the situation. The staff at E3 is wonderful and has really encouraged me and my kids in this rough time. Andrew's **growing confidence** has really impressed me because as he has learned to perform and dance, he is showing more confidence in every area of his life. It is a true blessing that Andrew can be a part of a program like this. I think that because of E3, **he feels he can achieve more in his life.**"

Andrew's Broadway instructor states, "Andrew has grown so much. His **confidence**, his **social skills**, and his **abilities as a performer** have all steadily grown since starting our program. He is also opening up and sharing with staff his pain and frustrations related to very difficult issues at home, and has learned how to **channel his anger and emotions in a more positive way.**

Andrew states, "I like coming to E3 because it's fun. My teachers help me a lot and teach me to do the right things. I also like that I get to go to places I've never been, like; the water park, the new park downtown, and Monster golf. I'm really happy at E3."

Erica

Erica's mother writes, "I like the E3 program so much. Erica has been in the program only a few months and I already see positive things that have changed in her. She's **more confident and more social** around people. Although she is a good student, she has benefited from being helped with her homework at E3. The greatest thing has been to see how much she enjoys being at the E3 program. She never seemed to like doing nothing [*sic*] or going anywhere. Now, **she is so happy** and is constantly talking about what she does when she's there. I could have never been able to send her to dancing or singing or gymnastics. But because of E3, she is learning all these things. The staff is also

very nice and Erica talks about how much she loves her teachers, too. I thank E3 for giving my daughter such a **positive atmosphere** to be in.”

Erica herself shares, “I love it at E3! I like ballet, I like gymnastics, I like my teachers, and I like monster golf. Oh, yeah, and I like my new friend, Hazel.”

Isaiah

“The E3 program has been one of the best things for Isaiah,” exclaims Isaiah’s grandmother. “He has come a long way since starting E3. He used to be withdrawn, a loner, misbehaved, didn’t care about school, rebelled against authority, was very angry, and really had no confidence in himself or anything he did. At E3 he has been in a **nurturing, positive atmosphere** that has changed him in many ways. He has learned how to **socialize in a group of children** and now wants to spend time with his friends and his cousins and is more **open and giving**. Being in the Broadway Babies has given his **so much confidence in his abilities** and has **boosted his self-esteem**. The E3 staff has truly been a blessing. You can tell they really love these kids and Isaiah has **grown emotionally** from the mentoring he has received from them. His **behavior has gotten much better** at E3. He knows that it is a place where he has to make the right choices, and it has made him **try harder to do what is right at home** and now he’s working on being better at school. **Academically he has improved in math and in his vocabulary**. Isaiah has overcome a lot, and although he still has more to overcome, he is growing and thriving in a place that is safe, creative, and encouraging.”

Isaiah’s singing teacher states, “Isaiah has made leaps and bounds as a vocalist and as a performer. His voice is strong, clear, and on pitch. He would barely look up while doing a solo when he first started performing. He is now singing with **confidence**, his head up, doing his moves, and is **focusing much better** as he works with a group of children to make a show that is unique and wholesome for our audiences. I believe the compliments he has received from audiences has **elevated his self-esteem** and has helped him realize that he has something that makes him special

“I like E3. I like performing,” Isaiah says with a big smile. “I like talking to Miss Cissy, she’s nice and funny. E3 is fun.”

Julia

In describing the new skills she has learned at E3, Julia said, “I’ve learned to always try to do my best. Now I can do gymnastics, I can dance, I do drama, and I’ve learned how to **get along better** with my friends.”

Patricia

Patricia’s grandmother writes, “E3 is such a great program. The teachers and management work very well with the students and the parents to get the students the help they need to succeed in life. Patricia has changed in so many ways. Her **attitude has changed a lot**. She’s **more helpful at home**, she **argues less**, she is learning how to **communicate with her friends and solve her conflicts in a more positive way**, and **her self-esteem gets better and better**. The performing group has helped her have **confidence** in what she can achieve. She can still be a little shy when singing a solo, but **wants** to sing solos. That in itself is a miracle! School has always been a challenge for Patricia, but she is **making progress in math**, and I give E3 the credit for helping her with her homework and making sure she completes it. I just thank E3 for choosing my granddaughter to be a part of this program. She now has a **safe and positive** place to go after school where she can learn and grow in every area of her life.”

Patricia’s dance teacher states, “Patricia was very reluctant at first to try her dance classes. Her confidence was so low that she didn’t even want to try. She is now in my advanced jazz class and is

always chosen as part of the dance team in our Broadway performances. I have seen a great change in her **confidence and self-esteem** as she continues to grow in her talents in both dance and singing.

Patricia shares, “I like E3 because **they help me when I’m sad** about my mom, or **upset about problems with my friends**. The teachers tell me I’m a good singer and dancer and I like being in Broadway Bound a lot.” When she was asked to identify a favorite places, she stated, “I liked that time I got to go to a meeting with Mrs. Sheetz and we got to give out candy to the people. That was fun!”

Carlita

Carlita’s parents state, “We are **so** thankful to the E3 program. Carlita has grown so much. She is **more outgoing** and she is now able to **socialize with people of all ages**. Her **confidence** has gone through the ceiling since joining the Broadway Babies. It is such a blessing to see her practice at home, and then see it come together at the performances. I think it has caused her to be an **achiever even at school**. She has always been a good student, but now she wants to get straight 4’s. She has **improved in her reading and vocabulary** since January. In fact, she sometimes has **too much confidence**, to the point of having a little attitude! I’m so glad though, to see her **have a belief in herself** and what she can do. The E3 staff has been so helpful to us as parents, too. We are grateful for a place like E3.”

Carlita states, “I love E3. It is fun and I like doing all the things I get to do there. My favorite thing is performing at Christmas time and I like all the friends I’ve made here.

Marcella

Marcella’s mother says, “I am so glad that Marcella has a place to go after school that has such a **positive atmosphere** and where she can be **productive**. Since starting E3 at the beginning of the school year 2008, she has **excelled academically, socially, and emotionally**. Being able to perform in the Broadway group has given her **confidence and self-esteem** a real boost. She seems **happier** and is always talking about what she did that day at E3 and how much she likes her teachers and her classes. Although she does well in school, she wasn’t always focused on doing her homework. At E3 they supervise her homework time and she is now **finishing her homework** and is turning it in.

Marcella says, “I love being at E3! I missed it during Christmas vacation. I love performing and I like how nice the teachers are. I also love the fieldtrips!”

Desiree

Desiree’s mom exclaims, “I love E3! I was hoping a spot would open up for her, and it finally did. She hasn’t been there long, but she is showing changes in her **social skills**, in her **behavior**, and her **attitude is a lot better**. She is really excited to be there. She has **taken the responsibility** of getting up early, cleaning her room, and getting ready without having to be told, so she can get there and not miss any classes. She loves dance and gymnastics and is showing me what she learns when she gets home. She was in trouble a lot at school for fighting. She is now **learning how to get along better with her peers** and is learning how to communicate better and not feeling like she has to be **mean to get attention**. As a mom, I want my child to have **experiences I never had**, and Desiree is getting them at the E3 program. I wish my other kids could be there, too.”

Desiree’s gymnastics teacher noticed how excited Desiree gets when she accomplishes a new technique. You can see her **confidence getting stronger** as she finds things she can do that she couldn’t do before.

Desiree states “I am happy and I have fun when I’m at E3! I love my dance classes and I hope I get to perform soon. I like the costumes they wear.”



Garden Pathways Academic Enhancement and After School Program **QUARTERLY REPORT: September 2009** Success Stories

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Michael

Michael's mother reports, "There are **so many positive changes** in Michael since he started at E3. Before starting E3, he didn't have many interests, was timid, and was not very social. We had **disciplinary issues** at home and a lot of **conflict with his brothers**. Michael is now **more confident** and **outgoing**. He is **making friends** and is **getting along much better** with his brothers. He loves to talk about his E3 classes and enjoys teaching his gymnastic and dance moves to his brothers. He is also **more helpful and constructive at home**. Over the summer, he was so excited about learning Spanish and going on the fieldtrips. It has been a blessing to have a place for him to go that is so positive and is teaching him not just performing arts but also about life skills. I'm also so grateful for the E3 staff's diligence in keeping Michael **on task with his homework last school year**. Since school started back, he has been so good about **wanting to finish his homework** and is **showing more interest in school** already. I know E3 is hugely responsible for that. Overall he is **developing a sense of self** and finding that there are many things he can do."

Michael's tap teacher states, "Over the summer, Michael really seemed to find his niche **socially**, with a group of boys with whom he spent lunch and break times. He was somewhat of a loner when he first came to E3, and **didn't have very good pro-social skills**, possibly due to a slight stutter. Through a lot of encouragement by staff, Michael learned to initiate conversations with other boys and learned that he didn't have to wait for someone to approach him to start a relationship. He is now **more outgoing** and has **lively conversations with his friends and teachers**."

Michael himself states, "**I like going to E3**. It's fun and I get to do lots of fun things. I like Pump It Up, tap, and my friends Kayla and Devon..... and snack....and lunch!"

Cory

Cory's mother writes, "I am so glad that Cory has been able to be a part of the E3 program. Because of E3, he has really become **a more open person**. He is **communicating better with my husband and me** and is more open about how he feels. He used to be very sensitive which affected his ability

to make and keep friends. He now has good friends and is **more confident** to speak up if someone is doing something wrong or if he's not being treated right. **His self-esteem and singing skills** have blossomed since performing with Broadway Beginnings. He feels so good about himself when he gets a "solo"! I've never seen him be **so outgoing and social** with a group of kids. If not for E3, he **would have never had these opportunities** to find his love of performing and to have all the experiences he has had since coming to the program. Thank you E3."

Cory's Broadway coach writes, "Cory's **whole demeanor** has changed since coming to E3. He is **more outgoing**, he is **very expressive while in conversations** with friends and teachers, and his **confidence** is very apparent as he performs and in his friendships."

"I like E3 a lot. My mom was going to have to stop bringing me here because of transportation problems. But when I told her how much I wanted to stay, she found a way for me to stay," says Cory.

Julian

Julian's mother exclaims, "E3 has been the best place for Julian! Julian is just a **happier little boy** since joining the program. He **looks forward to having a place to go** where he can do many different things and I am so glad that he is having so many new experiences. His **confidence in himself** has really shown since joining the singing group. He was so proud when Mrs. Sheetz told him that he had a good voice. He now wants to have a solo song! I'm glad that he was chosen to be a part of the program. It's a positive influence and keeps him focused on good things.

Julian's sports teacher states, "Over the summer, I saw a **significant change in Julian's social skills** and overall **confidence in himself**, as well as what he can accomplish if he tries. Through our sports program, he has learned **discipline**, how to **work as a team**, how to **lose with grace**, and has learned that even when he messes up, he is still **loved and accepted**.

Julian shares, "I like E3 because **I have good friends there**, and I got to perform at the Kern County Fair, and I got to go to lots of fieldtrips this summer!!!!

Patricia

Patricia's grandmother writes, "Patricia continues to grow in **confidence**, in **attitude**, in **discipline**, and is **maturing** so much through the E3 program. This summer she had to make a choice to back away from an unhealthy friendship. The E3 staff helped her realize that she was strong enough to make new friends and not allow someone else to use her friendship only on the other person's terms. Although it was hard, she found new friends and had such a good summer because of it. She is even renewing that friendship on her **own terms**. This was a **huge** step for her and she is **stronger** because of it. Patricia continues to perform with the Broadway groups. I am always so proud to watch her dance and sing. E3 has **kept her off the streets** and in a **wholesome atmosphere** where she can grow and learn. She is even **voicing a desire to do better in school this year**. We love E3."

The entire E3 staff has noticed a new confidence and sense of self in Patricia. Where she used to be a follower, she is now **showing real leadership** abilities and is asking to be the "teacher's helper" in classes. This is a bold step for her.

When asked to identify her favorite thing about coming to E3, Patricia said, "I like performing. I'm writing a three page essay for school about E3 and performing. The principal is going to read it and if it's good, she's going to read it to the whole school." (*This comes from a girl who has struggles with school*)

Erica

Erica’s mother says, “It was such a joy to watch my daughter perform at the Kern County Fair. Since coming to E3, Erica has become **confident** and outgoing. She is **more productive** and is **so** happy to be going to the program. Over the summer she enjoyed going on the fieldtrips, making homemade tortillas, and even learning about table manners! It’s a wonderful program and is giving my daughter **opportunities she never would have had otherwise.**”

Erica’s dance teacher states, “Erica is showing so much **confidence** and a true enjoyment of dance. She is quick at learning new skills and really desires to get it right.

Erica states, “E3 is fun! I like Broadway, I like my costume, and my mom said I was “**brilliant**” at the fair performance!

Katherine, Katrina, Lawrence, and Elias

These four students have joined E3 in the past four weeks. All parents expressed their excitement to have their children be a part of our program.

The students are all fitting in nicely, are making friends, and are participating in the classes. All enjoyed watching the other students rehearse for the Kern County Fair show. Katherine, Katrina, and Elias asked if they could audition to be in the Broadway groups.



Garden Pathways
Academic Enhancement and After School Program
QUARTERLY REPORT: DECEMBER 2008
Success Stories

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Gabriel

Gabriel's father reports, "Gabriel has **matured** in many ways since starting at E3. He listens more, his **attitude is much better**, he gets in **less trouble** at home, and is showing a **new confidence and self worth**. E3 has given him a place to go after school where he **experiences new things** and gets help with his homework. I cried the first time I watched him and his brother perform. I never thought in a million years that they would get this opportunity. I thank the E3 staff for all their positive influence on my family. My wife and I see that they really care for us and want the best for all of us."

Gabriel's school teacher at Williams shares, "Gabriel struggled to get along with the other students and his attitude was very defiant. Since joining E3 I have noticed a **significant improvement**, not only in **his behavior in the classroom**, (we're still working on his behavior on the playground) but in his **confidence and effort**. It is my belief that Gabriel's **100 point growth on the CST** can, in part, be attributed to his participation in E3.

Gabriel had a very hard time fitting in when he first came to E3. He tried getting attention by bothering the other students or causing distractions in class. But with guidance from his teachers and our Garden Pathways therapist, he is learning how to get "positive attention" by making good choices and is learning to respect himself and others.

Gabriel states, "I like E3 a lot. I get to do things that I never got to do before, and I like my teachers and my classes."

Joseph

"I love the E3 program!" exclaims Joseph's mom. "Joseph has grown so much since starting the program. He is much **better behaved at home and at school**. He is **finishing his homework**, is **more helpful**, and is learning to **take responsibility for his actions**. He loves performing and is eager to attend E3. I thank E3 staff for all their hard work and for all the encouragement they give my husband and me."

Joseph's school teacher notes, "Joseph was very disruptive in class. He had a hard time focusing on his work and finishing his homework. He was often sent to the office and was sometimes sent home for his behavior. Since starting the E3 program, he **has made improvements in reading and vocabulary**, is showing **more effort and restraint** in the classroom, and has **become very self confident and wants to share with the class**. He is **rarely sent to the office and hasn't been sent home in months!**"

When Joseph first came to E3, he was very sensitive and got defensive and upset when he got in trouble. He could not even talk about it and could not take responsibility for his choices. He also had a hard time doing his homework. He is now **making better choices** and is **learning to talk through his issues** without falling apart. Since joining the performing troupe, he has become **confident** in his singing and performing abilities. In fact, he has become quite a ham! He is also **more social** and is **getting his homework done**.

Joseph writes, "I really like going to E3. I like to perform and I like going on the fieldtrips!"

Julia

Julia's mother expresses her gratefulness to the E3 program for giving her daughter a **safe and productive place** to go after school. She says, "Julia used to come home after school and go spend a lot of time with the kids in the neighborhood and unfortunately was getting in trouble with these kids and at home. Since coming to E3, Julia is coming home and isn't asking to hang out with the neighborhood kids as much and is getting along better with her siblings and has a **better attitude** at home." Julia's mother also has noticed how Julia's **confidence** and **self-esteem** has gone up. She overheard Julia sharing with her older sister how she **feels good about herself** and how she loves to perform. Julia is also doing **better in school** and has benefited from the help she has gotten with her homework at E3.

Julia's teacher at school notices that she is **trying harder**, is **less disruptive**, and is completing her homework. She was especially surprised to see her **confidence** in running for a student body office and giving a speech in front of the students and teachers.

When Julia first started E3 she had a hard time fitting in. She got into arguments easily. Since joining the Broadway Beginnings performing troupe she has **learned to work as a team**. She is discovering that she has a singing voice. She has also made some very **good friendships**. Her dance teacher notes that she was very timid and got frustrated with herself when she could not get a move right. She wanted to give up and not be in class. With encouragement and praise she is now learning much quicker, is **confident** in her abilities, and loves her dance class.

In describing the new skills she has learned at E3, Julia said, "I've learned to always try to do my best. Now I can do gymnastics, I can dance, I do drama, and I've learned how to **get along better** with my friends."

Michael

Michael's mother writes, "I love the E3 program! Since starting, Michael has **less disciplinary** issues at home, is **more outgoing**, and he enjoys showing his brothers and me the new things he is learning at E3. He also tries to teach his brothers the moves. His **new confidence** is also showing in his **schoolwork**.

Michael's teacher shares that Michael was very shy and almost withdrawn. He had a hard time focusing and following directions while doing his class work. She credits E3's staff with going out of

their way to help Michael complete and return his homework, and to help him mature and **want to learn**. He is doing **better academically**.

Michael has been a joy to watch as he has gained **confidence and self-esteem** in both his E3 classes and in his **academic abilities**. He matured in many ways. His dance teacher has seen a great **improvement in his technique** as well as his ability to **stay engaged**. His gymnastics teacher says, "Michael didn't even want to try to do cartwheels and rolls at first. He now has the best forward roll in the class."

Michael states, "I have fun at E3. I like my classes and my new friends."

Patricia

Patricia's grandmother reports, "I am thankful to the E3 staff for helping me set a better moral standard for my granddaughter. Since going to E3 she **no longer runs the streets** because she has a place she can go that is positive. Patricia's **growing self-esteem** is showing socially, at school, and here at home. She is more helpful, is **in less trouble**, her attitude is much better, and when she does play with the neighbors, she is showing them the moves to her Broadway songs and dances or telling them what she did or where she went with E3! Grandma is especially proud to see Patricia performing all over town. She would have never had the opportunity to be a part of a group like Broadway Bound.

Patricia's school teacher has noticed a change in her **confidence and self-esteem**. She ran for student body officer and is more willing to be involved in the classroom. She doesn't always stay on task, but completes her work and is a **good student**.

When Patricia first came to E3 she had a hard time with taking responsibility for her actions if she made a bad choice. She wanted to put the blame on the other person. Through positive reinforcement and helping her understand why she made those choices she has become a different person. She is **rarely in trouble** and can be found giving advice to other students about making better choices, **helping others with homework**, and befriending new students so that they feel welcome. Her dance and Broadway teachers have noticed a great change in her **confidence**. She has a great gift for learning a dance quickly and retaining that memory.

Patricia says, "**I feel better about myself** since coming to E3. I like it when I do good things." She also expressed how fun it's been to get to perform at the Kern County Fair, The Marketplace, and at the malls.

Andrew

Andrew's mother expresses her thanks to the E3 program for helping her son be **more responsible and helpful at home**. He has also become more open about sharing his feelings. She is very happy to report that he is finishing his homework and is doing **better academically**. His performing has been a great joy to watch. It has really brought him **out of his shell**.

Andrew's teacher at Williams credits E3 for giving him the **self-esteem and confidence** to run for student body officer. He has also **improved academically**, is **more involved and social** in the classroom, and has benefited from the help he gets at E3 to **finish his homework**. She states, "He is an **awesome student** and all around nice young man."

His teachers at E3 are very impressed with his singing and dancing. He has become **confident and outgoing** and is a great **performer**.

Andrew says, "I love E3 because I get to go to places I've never been ,I get to do gymnastics, I got to perform at the fair and that place that looks like the white house (Seven Oaks Country Club), and my teachers listen to me and help me **make better choices.**"

Melissa

Melissa's mother says, "I really love having Melissa at E3. Through performing and making new friends, her **confidence and self worth** has gone through the ceiling!!! E3 has helped her be more **responsible about finishing her homework** and she seems to like to learn more. She made the **honor roll** last quarter! The best thing about E3 is that it has **given her a place to be productive**, a place that she can explore her talents and have new experiences.

Melissa's teacher writes, "Melissa is a **good student**. She has become more involved in class discussions and has **developed such self-confidence** since the beginning of the school year. I believe E3 is responsible for her **new confidence** and her **personality traits have blossomed.**"

Melissa's Broadway coach states, "At first Melissa seemed shy and uncertain of her abilities. Now she is singing and dancing and her **confidence** as a performer shines on stage!"

Melissa says, "I am so happy at E3! I love that I am learning to sing, dance, and perform. I like that I have **new friends** and that I am **learning how to get along with them better**. I love my teachers because they help me make **good choices.**"

Lili

Lili's mother notes, "Lili's **attitude has improved** at home. She is **more open, talkative**, and is learning so many new things since going to E3. I am so proud to watch her perform and see the **confidence** she has. I'm thankful that she has a place to go after school that is **positive** and **safe**.

William's school gives E3 the credit for Lili's **growing self-esteem and confidence**. Her teacher states, "Lili is more **actively involved in class**, she has **fewer absences**, and has **improved in language arts and fluency scores** and is an all around good student."

When she first started E3, Lili was quiet and somewhat shy. While in singing class her teacher discovered her love of singing and put her in the Broadway Beginnings performing troupe. Through this group her **confidence and her abilities** have grown. Her dance teacher says she is more **outgoing and active** in her classes as well.

Lili shares, "I feel good when I come to E3. I don't like it if I miss a day! I love that it makes my mom happy to watch me perform."

Aaron

Aaron's mother writes, "Aaron has improved in many ways since going to E3. He has **improved academically, especially in his math and reading skills**. His **self esteem is awesome!!** He is always singing the songs he performs in the Broadway group. His **whole demeanor is more positive**. Thank you to the E3 staff for all your prayers, counsel, and **encouragement** as we dealt with some difficult personal issues that could have reversed everything that my son has achieved. You were always there for me and the kids and it shows."

Aaron's teacher at William's school states, "Aaron has made good **progress academically** and is getting **better at controlling his behavior** in class. His **attendance has also improved.**"

Aaron was quiet when first starting at E3, yet he could be disruptive in classes. Now, Aaron has become a leader – someone to whom the other boys look up. He is learning how to make good choices and makes sure that those around him do, too. He has become **confident and outgoing**, is becoming a very good tumbler, and is performing with our Broadway group.

Aaron says, “I **feel happy** at E3. I’m learning to **do things that are right** and to **forgive**. I also get to do lots of fun things and go to places I’ve never been.”

Catherine

Catherine’s mother is happy to report, “E3 has been the best thing for Catherine. I am so proud of her for making the honor roll!! She is **better behaved** at home, is **more cooperative** and willing to help, she is **more open**, and she writes stories about her new friends at E3. It has given her a **positive place** to go and to do things she hasn’t got to do before. Watching her perform has been a great joy and is something that has brought the family together in a positive way.”

Catherine’s school teacher notes, “Catherine used to be chatty and was distracted easily in class. Since starting E3 she has **excelled academically**, even making the **honor roll** for the first time. I credit E3 for helping her get her **homework done** and for helping her focus on her work. Catherine constantly talks about the fun things she gets to do and how much she loves the program.”

Her teachers at E3 all agree that Catherine has really come out of her shell. She is always smiling and always has great expressions as she sings and dances. Her piano teacher says she shows a natural ability on the piano.

Catherine says, “I’m excited and happy when I’m at E3. I have so much fun when I perform. I like my teachers because they help me feel better when I’m sad.”

Isaiah

Isaiah’s Grandmother shares, “E3 has been an answer to my prayers. Isaiah used to want to be alone and now he wants to have his friends and cousins around. He is also **more willing to follow the rules** and is helpful around the house. He is **improving in his reading and writing** and is getting fewer referrals at school. Since he joined the Broadway group he is **more confident, more outgoing**, and was very sad when he had to miss a performance when he went to camp. He **loves to sing** and really comes to life on stage!”

Isaiah’s teacher at William’s School says, “Isaiah has **improved both in academics and his behavior**. E3 has **increased his self confidence and personal growth** through performing and keeping him on task with his homework.”

Isaiah was very quiet and stayed to himself when he first came to E3. He preferred to play alone and would get very angry if someone invaded his space. This of course got him in trouble. He had such anger when he got in trouble. Now with some extra attention and encouragement he is **learning how to interact with the other kids** and has made new friends. His **discipline issues have improved tremendously**. Since joining the Broadway group he has **grown in confidence** and has the strongest male voice in the group. His attitude is so much lighter and he now smiles and always offers to help his teachers in class.

Isaiah shares, “I like going to E3. I get to perform, and sing, and go to “Pump it Up. I am learning to make good choices with my friends.”

Cory

“I am so glad my son is able to be a part of the E3 program,” says Cory’s Mom. He’s **become more open** and talkative at home and shares about all he has learned at E3. He’s also **more social** and has **made new friends**. He especially likes his gymnastics and singing classes. Thank you E3.”

His school teacher states, “Cory has **improved in his behavior, his academics, his confidence, and his attendance**. His fluency score is **off the chart**, and math and reading are awesome! I have had four students in my class that have been with E3, and the thing I notice most is their increased **confidence** and a **greater desire to learn**. This includes Cory.”

When Cory came to E3 he was quiet, yet he immediately liked his classes and always tried new things even though he was timid about it. He is **now confident** in all his classes, has **made new friends**, and is **more outgoing**. His gymnastics teacher has noticed an increase in his confidence in both his abilities and his interaction with other students.

Cory states, “I like having somewhere to go after school. I feel **more confident** and I have made a lot of new friends. I like my classes, especially gymnastics.”

Maria

Maria’s mother expresses, “I am so proud of all my daughter has achieved since starting at E3. She has become **very secure** in who she is, **more talkative, more responsible**, and has become more social. More than anything, I get such joy from watching her perform with Broadway Bound. She is singing and dancing and is very animated. I never thought she would be so outgoing! We are both very sad that she has to leave the program (because she is now in middle school), but hope to find a way for her to go back so she can be in the Broadway group. I appreciate all E3 has done for my daughter.”

Maria’s teacher at Williams states, “Maria was very shy and quiet and had a hard time communicating because she spoke little English. By the end of the school year she had **become confident in her work and her participation in class**. She **improved academically, socially, and had better attendance**. I was surprised to see **her confidence** while performing in front of the student body and teachers at a school assembly.” The principle at Stiern Middle School writes, “Maria came to us in August. She got straight A’s and has a 4.0 GPA. Her teacher says she is an all around good student.”

Maria was **very quiet and very shy** when she came to E3. She barely spoke English and had another girl in the program translate for her in classes. Maria joined the “Broadway Bound” performing group and started learning the songs in English. This helped tremendously in her communication with her teachers and other students. She quickly became a very good dancer and performer. Through these experiences she has **become very confident and outgoing**.

Maria shares, “**I loved my time at E3!** I was really sad if I had to miss even one day. My favorite thing was performing in Broadway Bound. I will miss my teachers and friends. I hope to return to E3 so I can continue performing in Broadway Bound.”

Ethan

Ethan’s mom reports, “Ethan loves E3, and so do I! Ethan is **more secure, more talkative, more energetic**, and more open with family and his siblings. He is **more social** and has had two friends over from E3. He has **improved in school** and is **finishing his homework** and actually looks forward to going to school! I thank E3 for all they have done for my children.”

Ethan’s teacher at Williams states, “Ethan was very shy and seemed to “zone out” in class. Since starting E3 he has **improved academically, is focused,** and has the **confidence** to participate in group activities. In fact, **he has become a leader!**”

When Ethan started E3, he was so shy he could barely look people in the face. The fact that he didn’t speak English, kept him from interacting with the other students. He was also shy when trying new things in his classes. He loved and excelled at was art class. After a few months he started to participate in classes, started making friends, and in November he asked his singing teacher if he could be in a Broadway performing troupe. His **new confidence** is great to see and the other students look up to him because he is a **peacemaker**.

Ethan states, “I am so happy at E3! I hope I can go forever. I can’t wait to start Broadway Beginnings so I can perform at the fair like my sister did!”