**Student Profile** Jeshawn Chrite

**Location:** Golightly

**Student:** Jaden Ely

During my time at Golightly I’ve seen many different faces, of children especially. The same seven I tutor are those of Ja’Niyah, Bianca, Landen, London, KeyJaun, Jaden, and David; on some days I read to an eight student, Tristian. I’ve had little trouble with everyone except for David, who doesn’t seem to have the best memory. He’s a child that likes to have fun, always playful and well-liked by the other students. His home situation is definitely questionable, as he has a babysitter while his mother is at work. She refuses to help him study the words and homework assignments that he doesn’t understand, which is basically all of English—at least, that’s what he tells me. I asked him recently what he likes to do and he said math was his favorite thing. He hasn’t had trouble in that subject, which would suggest him to be more of a logical person than that of creative. He doesn’t like video games very much, yet his attention span is short. As long as one makes good conversation with him he’ll enjoy himself.

Jaden has cheated on a spelling test, due to him not knowing what the words were when I would say them (I agreed to give him the test specifically to see where his vocabulary was). It seems as if he doesn’t study anything at all, or even pay attention in class. This is harsh, but not without reason: he’s having on his alphabet. The children I work with are only in the second grade, which is understandable if one were to ask them why they’re having trouble with third grade concepts. However, kindergarten lessons should not be absent from the student’s mind. It was stressful watching Jaden’s face go blank when the first question was asked, and so I went over that day constantly to think of how he could learn better.

After realizing that his attention span was low, I went along with Project Read to see if he got stuck again. He looked at me with eyes that contained nothing readable, blank as ever, as if he was lost in some other world… It was a sign of serious struggle, his brain totally gone for as long as we weren’t moving.

That was the key; moving.

Jaden’s memory is limited to what stimulates it. Math can be stimulating because of the feeling one gets when the problem is solved. It causes it to race, and that’s what I needed to make happen with Jaden. For this purpose I implement the flash cards much more than I do with other students, since they prove to be the most effective. He uses his hands a lot to say things, which hints toward a more kinesthetic learner. This gave me the idea to have him stomp and clap his hands whenever he starts to try and say a word. Often times I beat on the desk I sit at and stomp my feet on the floor to make rhythm while reading to him so that it’s more memorable. Music, it would seem, is another one of his strong points. About a week ago with Jaden I had him stand up while showing him the flash cards (he’s just now earned five words, and that was after two weeks of studying). The word that kept troubling him was ‘said’; he remembered ‘have’, ‘to’, ‘of’, and even ‘the’, but ‘said’ was always difficult for him. He always asked for hints. He isn’t practicing, but there could be several different reasons. He could either be lying to me about no one at home helping him (that would explain his lack of attention in class) or the concept of reading overloads his brain without baby steps (as said before, everything about his demeanor slows down and his awareness comes to a halt). Either way, I know that he wants to be able to do it without trouble, so I’ll keep trying more strategies. He’s tried moving, standing , playing with cards, repetition, using his hands, etc., and there are still more ways to get him to learn. The internet is one of them, and as of now I’m looking for websites.