

PRESS RELEASE
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From the Early Childhood Center to the Boardroom
Former ECC Student Joseph Booth takes success to new heights

Joseph Booth was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) when he was four years old, underwent two surgeries for strabismus, endured multiple ear infections that left him hard of hearing, had another surgery to reconstruct his eardrum, and suffered an extreme lisp that lasted about nine years. One could argue that Joseph did not get off to a fair start in life, spending the bulk of his early childhood in and out of hospitals. That's one way to look at it. But 25 years later, Amy Booth, Joseph's mother, looks at her son through appreciative eyes and sees an unabashed warrior. Unstoppable determination. A passion for life. *A success story.*

"It was tough," she said remembering what it was like to raise a child with ADD. "We would spend hours and hours studying and teaching him how to prioritize his work." As Amy recalled all of the roadblocks that Joseph had already braved, she had no doubt he would persevere. That same year, Joseph was enrolled at Mill Neck Manor's School for the Deaf in the Early Childhood Center (ECC) – a specialized program for preschoolers with deficits in language, cognition, social interaction, or motor skills. "I was excited that there was a school that could help him," Amy said. "I remember he got right on the bus, stuck his thumb in his mouth, and didn't even look back or cry."

During this intensive program, Joseph received speech, physical, and occupational therapies from his teachers who rigorously worked with him one-on-one. And although Joseph was only

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four, he can still recollect some of the time he spent at the ECC. “Speech and occupational therapy were fun, and I also remember swimming with little paddleboards,” he said. “My teachers worked with me on my motor skills and it made me actually like school.”

Joseph dramatically excelled in the ECC program. “His behavior greatly improved; he used to have terrible temper tantrums and that was resolved,” Amy said. “We loved it.” So much so that when Joseph was mainstreamed in kindergarten, Amy didn’t want him to leave the program. “I cried the day he graduated from ECC. I was afraid kids would be mean to him at another school.”

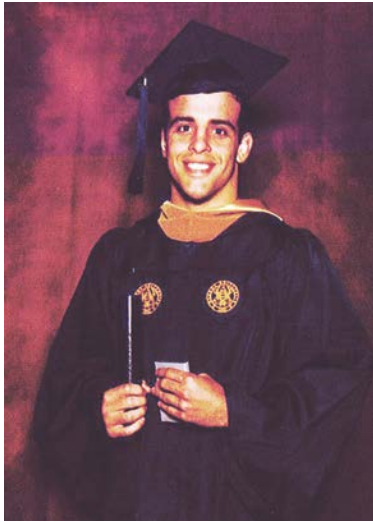
Joseph, being the highflier that he is, took mainstream by storm, later attending Long Island Lutheran High School as an All-American wrestler. He moved on to Drexel University, where he received a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

Although Joseph does find that he has to work harder to focus because of his ADD, he catches up by participating in one-on-one sessions with his professors. “I like school, but sometimes feel like I have to do a lot work outside of class to catch up with everyone else.” Of course, that didn’t stop Joseph from actively pursuing his career, as he is now attending Hofstra University, and is one semester away from receiving an M.B.A. in Business Analytics.

Joseph’s success story is a testament to a hunger for learning, a willingness to grow, and the determination to achieve the future that you want no matter what life throws your way.

Mill Neck’s ECC program opens their doors to children like Joseph and provides them with individualized attention in a nurturing environment. The center also offers full evaluations in the areas of speech and language, educational testing, and psychological, audiological, occupational and physical therapies.

For more information about Mill Neck’s Early Childhood Center, please call 516-922-4100 or email info@millneck.org.



Joseph Booth, a graduate of the ECC's preschool program, has grown into a successful and determined young man.

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