



## Meet Michelle Price...

When her soon-to-be 12 year old son, “Daniel” was born at 25 weeks weighing less than 2 pounds, Michelle Price spent five months in the NICU at DeKalb Medical Center after she was told he had “grade two bleeding on the brain”. She was forewarned that Daniel would be impacted by developmental delays but she was unable to process what that meant as far as future academic progress for her son as school was still years off. Once Daniel was ready for school, Michelle once again found herself relying on her own inner strength and guidance from her parents, her “godmother” (formerly her speech therapist as a young child) and fortunately, Parent to Parent of Georgia, to help her feel supported.

As a young child with learning differences herself, Michelle knew she had to work harder than most of her classmates to succeed and after graduating with a Certificate of Attendance, she decided to continue to pursue her high school diploma, one subject at a time. First math, then writing, science, and so on until she passed each one and walked across the stage to receive her high school diploma. Shortly afterwards, Michelle enrolled in an Early Childhood Development program at Denmark Technical College where she was chosen out of more than 200 other students to be crowned “Miss Human Service” at Denmark Tech—another achievement which makes her extremely proud.

When asked about how she got connected to Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P), Michelle explains that “I’m always ‘googling’ on my computer. I was online trying to get help for my son and P2P popped up. From them, [P2P] I was able to get a better understanding of how to write a letter and request an evaluation. I had no clue how to write a letter to the school and request a meeting.” Michelle adds that just yesterday her son Daniel was reading Dr. Seuss’ book, “Green Eggs and Ham” to his classmates. The teachers are now taking an interest in his progress too!



Michelle credits P2P as well as the power of the word, “I” for helping her achieve such milestones with Daniel’s school progress. She explains, “I’ll never forget [P2P said]...if you use words like ‘I feel like...’ and remain calm, the school will work with you.” P2P also helped me with my daughter Gracelyn too. I submitted a request for an evaluation for her and [the school] kept telling me, “She’s fine. She’s fine. She doesn’t need any help.” The teachers were telling me to help her correct her tests in math but P2P suggested I test her and guess what? I got her

approved under “Other Health Impaired” (OHI). She’s currently in the third grade and she loves to sing and dance. She just got “Student of the Month” due to her improvements on her report card and she just brought home B’s on her most recent progress report when she had been failing in Math. Now she’s back to feeling more confident and bossing her older brother around!”

As a result of her positive experience with P2P, Michelle is now working through the various online webinars required to become certified as a Supporting Parent. She says, “I always had a passion for people and to help them the best way that I can. I took my job as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) because I love people. Always have a plan for what you do.” And yes, she says—you *can* do it!

Michelle sees there is hope for the future for her two children and gives a lot of credit to both her parents, her godmother and P2P for guiding her along the way. She wants to continue raising her children to be independent and encourage them to go to college “where they can get a decent education or a trade”. She adds, “I’m focused on making sure they have everything they need accommodation wise and I am working on becoming a Supporting Parent for P2P. I’m just glad I can help somebody else out there.” That’s the spirit of “I”, Michelle!