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## From Loner to Achiever: Modzelle's Story

*Shirley Daniels' son, Modzelle was diagnosed with speech impairment at the age of two, and they took him to a speech therapist. When he entered elementary school, Modzelle became increasingly withdrawn, and would not enter into conversation with other children.*

This continued through middle school. As Modzelle struggled to deal with the death of someone he was close to, his grades plummeted and his depression increased.

Shirley took him to a counselor with a special ed. degree. The counselor told Shirley that she noticed that Modzelle would take several seconds to process a question asked him and would answer in single word sentences. He was diagnosed with expressive or receptive language deficit.

Through modifications in the classroom and in his peer group, Modzelle has become more social, his grades have greatly improved. Modzelle has become a valuable member of his school's football team, running over 800 yards this season and was selected as player of the week by the local school system. Shirley says that his participation in football has improved all aspects of his life. Her son who once would not speak in class for fear of ridicule from his classmates, has a new confidence and self-esteem and even has offers from two Universities!



[Shirley Daniels](#) is the Parent Mentor for Mitchell County.