

TESTIMONY

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I grew up in a household where learning disabilities were part of everyday life. My father, who is dyslexic and has ADHD, is a qualified financial advisor and the owner of a successful company. He showed me that learning disabilities do not define intelligence, potential, or success.

From the earliest years, I was surrounded by parents who supported and understood me, and I naturally became an advocate for learning differences. Signs of dyslexia were identified as early as kindergarten, and from Grade 1 to Grade 6 I received occupational therapy. This early intervention shaped my foundation, teaching me how to read and write in ways that worked for my brain. Today, I love reading and dream of writing my own book.

Brain Bloom Foundation was born from both positive and negative experiences. I encountered supportive and unsupportive school environments, and I realized that many children face circumstances far worse than mine—often with parents who do not understand learning differences. At just 16 years old, I can say I have walked this road. I have lived the reality of being bullied, humiliated, and even forced to read aloud in front of teachers to “prove” my ability despite formal diagnoses. That moment was a breaking point, when I realized the real issue was not my ability, but the lack of education about learning disabilities.

Their intentions may have been to help, but the harm was greater. These experiences caused deep emotional pain, but they also made me stronger. I know my capabilities, I understand why I struggle, and I also know how successful I can be.

I have lived both realities: when accommodations were implemented correctly and when they were not. With proper support, my marks improved dramatically. Without it, my results dropped by nearly 25%—clear proof that I can succeed academically when given the right tools.

Brain Bloom Foundation was created from my lived experience. Its purpose is to educate, build empathy, and show that learning differences are not weaknesses but strengths that deserve recognition and support.

After being crowned Miss Teen Universe South Africa, I visited schools to advocate for learning disabilities and share a message of hope. But time was limited at school visits, and words did not always come out as planned. I realized the need for a platform that could hold all the knowledge and experiences I wanted to share, to make a lasting impact.

That vision came to life when I partnered with one amazing lady, Angela from Virtual Reality Digital Design Studio, who helped me create a website where people across the world can access, learn, and connect. My hope is to change the stigma around learning barriers and bring value to every child who feels unseen.

My message of hope to people with learning disabilities is this:

***We are not here to fit into the world—we are here to reshape it.
And together, we will.***

