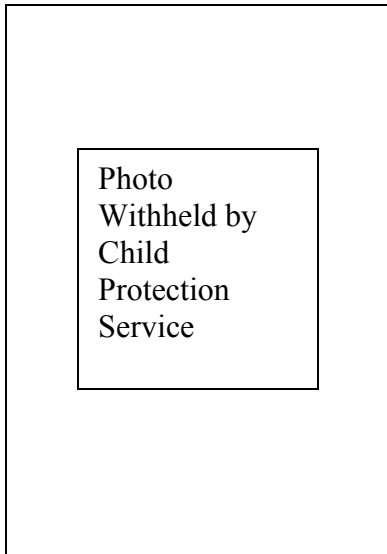


# Katherine

My name is Katherine (Kathy). I am 15 ½ years old and attending a Senior High School in central Nebraska. I am in the tenth grade. Some of the symptoms I have in school are: not paying attention and falling behind everyone else. Sometimes my symptoms get worse if I don't take my medicines. The medicines help me a lot. I am able to pay better attention and not fall behind so much. My strengths are being able to talk with my friends, being with my family, and helping out other people.

The diagnosis I have is Attention Deficit Disorder and Learning Disabilities. Stacy, my foster mom, thought I had ADD. So we went and saw the doctor about it around a year and a half ago. My family is very supportive of me and tells me not to give up and keep trying. My teachers are helpful and tell me that I can do what everybody else can do.



I have an IEP in school and I am identified under Learning Disabilities and Other Health Impaired. I have been in special education since I was in Elementary School. I wasn't able to pay attention, read well, and this made me get behind in school. I know that I have improved in school because I am not failing my classes. I am not falling behind in my classes and able to keep up in school. What has helped me the most is that my teachers were nice to me. They didn't treat me different. They thought that I was just like the rest of the other kids. They also gave me one on one attention when I needed and showed me what to.

It has gotten much harder in high school. I don't get as much support as I used to. I still get support in high school, but if I could have something different at school I wish that the classes were slower for me. It is hard for me to keep up and the teachers don't seem to have as much time to give me the one on one help I used to get. This would help me not get lost or confused as much.

The goal that I have now is to get good grades on my report card. My plan in the future is to graduate from High School and go on to college. When I turn 19, I want to get back with my family. I also want to become a veterinarian or vet tech. Then I am going to get a big house so I can help all the dogs and cats that get abused. This will be a place they will know that they can come and know that not all people are bad.

People need to tell me not to give up and keep trying. There are a lot of people who could have done better by helping me a lot more with my disabilities and not make fun of me like some of my classmates. The best kind of help they can do is by helping me with reading and writing. Most of all, by understanding my difficulties. My best

advice to teachers is to give kids like us a little longer time to do our homework and give them one on one attention when they need. They need to understand it takes us longer to do our homework than other kids.

Katherine, Age 15  
February, 2005  
Nebraska