

## **Anat Baniel Method for Children with Special Needs with BonnieK**



Bonnie Klssam, M.A. in Exceptional Student Education,  
Graduate of *Anat Baniel*® Child Mastery Program  
*Feldenkrais*® Practitioner, Master's Degree in Physical  
Education/Dance [www.bonniekissam.com](http://www.bonniekissam.com)

***Central to all learning is the ability to differentiate.***

Bonnie uses movement and the brain's ability to adapt, change and grow to guide the child's attention to learn to differentiate his/her kinesthetic/sensory experiences. Learning was defined by Moshe Feldenkrais, D.Sc. as discerning differences. Through sensing -- the child is guided to differentiate her actions, sort differences and make a new choice in her actions-nonverbally. Infants as well as children who can't speak can learn to differentiate what they sense. Benefits go beyond movement.

**Premise:** Best learning for a child is to optimize existing capabilities, and then optimize developmental steps necessary for the action the child is working towards. Many children need more experience in subtle differentiations in sensing, action, and thought to continue their development. If a child could do it she would.

**The Approach:** First, I connect with a child on a non-verbal level to help the child attend to his actions. Second, I help facilitate his ability to sense differences to variations. Third, I set up the child's ability to experience his actions by optimizing movements necessary for the given action. My intention is to help the child engage in what he is sensing and optimize strategies for his actions in a way that expands the child's thinking and overall ability.

**Bonnie Kissam has a Master's Degree** in Physical Education and Dance, and a second one in Exceptional Student Education. She became a Licensed Massage Therapist in NY State in 1980 and a *Feldenkrais*® Practitioner in 1983. She was fortunate in studying with Moshe Feldenkrais, D.Sc., in his last two years of teaching where Anat Baniel was his assistant. She completed Anat's program for Children with Special Needs.

***With attention, learning expands into all areas of life and has exponential growth qualities.***

**Appointments:** This program works best for the child if she receives 2-4 lessons of 35-45 minutes each within a few days of each other. Bonnie organizes one weekend a month for appointments specifically for children. Other times would need to be around times convenient for both the child, parents, Bonnie and the space she works from. Once an appointment is made please give her a 24 hour notice to avoid a cancellation fee.

*Bonnie Kissam, M.A.*

Main Office: Ionies 1241 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34236

Also in St Pete and Orlando. Cell phone: 941.587.4535

**Questionnaire:**

Child's name:

Child's birth date and current age:

Diagnosis:

Mother's name:

Mother's cell phone number:

Father's name:

Father's cell phone number:

Email:

Home phone number:

Address:

Cell phone numbers of another adult who might bring your child to the lessons:

Experience with *Feldenkrais*® lessons (*Anat Baniel Method*)

Therapies currently engaged in

Therapies engaged in the past.

Challenges your child is dealing with:

Medications your child takes:

Favorite toys and activities your child likes: (please bring a toy or two)

***The following are general questions: PLEASE Answer the best you can.***

What is your child's favorite activity he/she will engage in?

What are the daily activities he/she has to do?

What does he/she do easily and comfortably?

Where does he/she struggle?

What do you wish \_\_\_\_\_ would/could do more of? Roll, speak, ??

What are the daily stimulations – i.e. neighbors stop by, times in car, playmates –activities they have in their lives.

When did you see a major growth or a shift in your child's development or learning? What was that major shift?

Do you have a sense of what 'learning' lead up to that development? – or what do you attribute the shift to?

What activities will your child get really enthusiastic about?

What is your favorite time/activity with your child?

What is your child's favorite time of day?

When do you see your child being motivated on his/her own?

When do you feel a need to motivate him/her?

Anything Else I should know....

*Please visit:* video of -- Elizabeth -- and her successful story  
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-3714789944552371761>

Anat Baniel: <http://www.anatbanielmethod.com/children/children-with-special-needs>

**Individual Measurement CHECKLIST:**

List Activities she/he participates in at the moment.

Circle number 1-5 ---- 5 means he/she is very competent, 4, competent, 3 performs OK, 2, needs help, 1 hardly at all, 0 – not at all.

Activities: from smiling to rolling to walking, to reading or writing. Self-management skills, movement abilities, sport activities, behaviors, Interaction with others ...

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 7. . \_\_\_\_\_ 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 8. . \_\_\_\_\_ 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_ 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_ 0 1 2 3 4 5