

For me, I think the most gratifying part of being able to work at the Conductive Learning Center this summer is that I know what these kids are going through, because I was once one of them myself. Even though I don't remember much from my time at the CLC, since it was so long ago, it's nice to know that these kids are still getting the education and help from the school that I got myself many years ago. I love knowing that these kids are getting a chance to learn some skills that will help them succeed in the future, and that I can be a part of that.

Fifteen years ago, when Conductive Education was first brought to West Michigan, I was one of six kids in the pilot program. Having been born with spina bifida, the CLC program helped me with my balance, coordination, and walking skills. My mom tells me that during my first summer there, I enjoyed swimming, ice skating, and all sorts of other activities. And although I'm no longer a student in the program, all of these things helped me to gain the confidence and independence that I have today, and to be able to succeed on my own.

It's been great to be able to give back a little of what I gained from the program. Seeing these kids, I've realized how far I've come. I applaud the persistence that these kids have, because it will help many of them to be able to strive for amazing things later in life. Thank you CLC for giving me the opportunity to give back to a program that gave me so much.

Lily Conklin

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