

Aug. 21, 2002

Dear Reader,

So, here you are, in a neatly decorated waiting area, just like I was last fall, and you are saying to yourself, "Wow. These people have got it together." Cockatiels named after Red Wings. All these glowing letters in this book. Talk about a good first impression.

Then that voice will kick in. It will say something like: This ETC stuff might work for some people, but these folks don't know *my* kid. They don't know that when it comes to bedwetting, he's no different at 14 than he was at 5. They don't know how often we've changed sheets three times a night. They don't know that everything we've ever tried has failed. That the local doctors couldn't do a thing. That the urologists at the UNIVERSITY of MICHIGAN certified that he has a small bladder ... but couldn't do a thing. That DDAVP, which was never a "cure" anyway, is losing its magic.

That voice will then whisper that if the ETC claims a 95 percent success rate, we are doomed to be among the unlucky 5 percent.

But we'd driven across town on a Saturday morning. We weren't about to turn back. And a woman named Barbara was about to invite us inside. In her calm, knowing voice, she explained why kids wet their beds, and why they can't do a thing about it ... without help. Our skepticism soon vanished. She clearly knew more about this subject than any "expert" we'd ever consulted. Barbara listened to our story and empathized. She spelled out what the treatment entailed and why it would work. We were sold.

As for the program itself: Yes, it took time. Yes, it took effort. Yes, it took patience. But we began in November — amid school and all the extra-curriculars — and by the end of the school year we were done. Along the way, we were steered expertly and firmly and enthusiastically by Sue, our counselor. And, as a bonus, we did it all by phone.

The result? A year ago, I was setting my alarm nightly for 2:00 a.m., hoping to guide Luis to the bathroom "in time." Dumping wet sheets in the washing machine at 2:05 a.m. was as much part of the household routine as doing the dishes.

Now that's history. Luis has been dry *every night* for nearly eight months. Bed-wetting is no longer a part of his life. Thanks to his effort — and Sue and Barbara and Fran and all the great people at ETC — he is finally free.

So, please, disregard any voices of doubt you might be hearing. Believe me: The program works.



Dave V.