

From a young age, I knew I was different. It wasn't that I didn't try hard or that I didn't care about school, it was that I learned differently. The letters and words on the page seemed to blur, and I couldn't recognize or use them correctly. At the time, I couldn't understand why I wasn't keeping up. All I knew was that it made me feel like I didn't belong. It wasn't until grade five that I was diagnosed with dyslexia. Looking back, I realize that this was a pivotal moment. Before my diagnosis, I had not received the proper support or tools to help me succeed academically. I was falling behind, and my self-esteem suffered because of it. However, after I was diagnosed with dyslexia, everything began to change. I finally received the support I needed for a more tailored approach to learning, with special tools that allowed me to learn in a way that made sense to me. My grades improved dramatically, and my confidence began to rebuild. But the damage to my self-esteem had already been done. The bullying I experienced in those early years, when my classmates thought I was "dumb" for struggling with something as simple as reading, left deep scars and I found myself spiraling mentally. At my lowest point, I was lucky to have found a counselor who helped me find my way back. She didn't just listen to my problems, she provided guidance, tools, and strategies to cope with the struggles of bullying. She showed me that it was okay to seek help and that everyone has struggles that are worth addressing. Her support gave me the strength to pull myself out of the dark place I was in. It wasn't just the practical tools she gave me, it was the emotional support that helped me realize the power of compassion, care, and understanding.

It was during this time that I began to think about how I wanted to help others in the same way that she had helped me. I wanted to be a person who could make a difference in someone's life. This realization sparked my desire to pursue a career in healthcare. I decided to enroll in the Bachelor of Science in Psychology program knowing that this field would give me the opportunity to study the mind, and the importance of mental health.

Two years ago, I was diagnosed with a birth defect, which further deepened my desire to help people in the healthcare field. After undergoing a series of surgeries, I gained a new perspective on what it means to rely on healthcare professionals for help and support. During my recovery, I saw firsthand the importance of compassionate care from health care workers. They provided emotional support, they made me feel at ease during a very stressful time. These experiences further deepened my desire to contribute to the field, but now with an added focus on the role of healthcare professionals, as a neurosurgeon. The surgeries I went through opened my eyes to healthcare and the dedication to helping others. I realized how their work was not only about physical recovery but about restoring hope and confidence to patients.

Healthcare is a field where one can make a direct and lasting impact on people's lives. When someone is struggling with a physical or psychological concern, the right care can make all the difference. I've seen this firsthand, from my own journey. Healthcare professionals are more than just healers; they are guides, and sources of hope. In many ways, they hold people's lives in their hands, not just in a physical sense, but also psychologically. The combination of my personal experiences has given me a deep understanding of the importance of empathy, care, and resilience in healthcare. These experiences have shaped my view of the world and my desire to be a part of the healthcare system. For me, this means using the bachelor's degree to further my education to pursue a career as a neurosurgeon. My journey has been shaped by

many challenges, but these experiences have inspired me to pursue a career in healthcare, where I can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.