

## **A Plus unlocks imagination, strengthens self-esteem**



*Andrea Suykur shares one of the short stories she wrote with A Plus president, Tony Baldassano and her father, Reedone Suykur.*

**F**ourth grader **Andrea Suykur** may grow up to be a famous author. She recently authored “Carolyn the Cat,” a short story about the fun adventures of a feline named Carolyn and her friend, Rachel the Hamster.

Andrea began exploring her writing abilities after attending tutoring sessions for reading and math at A Plus Education Centers, Inc. in Chicago. At A Plus, Andrea got the attention she needed to firmly grasp her schoolwork and dramatically increase her grades. This gave her a renewed confidence overall, as well as a fresh passion for reading, which quickly turned into an interest in writing.

Andrea has been tutored by A Plus in reading and math since she was in second grade. A Plus has helped Andrea to improve her grades in all her classes (her vocabulary grade rose from a C- to an A and math from a B- to an A) and she is now reading at two grade levels above her own. She continues

with tutoring for enrichment – to get a jumpstart on her schoolwork.

In her large school classroom at school, Andrea was unable to get the attention she needed to learn some basic math skills. “I learned how to multiply for the first time at A Plus,” said Andrea. “They taught me a way to figure it out.”

Because she knows more vocabulary words now, Andrea is more comfortable reading out loud in school. Her teacher, at Daniel Boone Elementary School in Chicago, noticed the difference and praised Andrea for her efforts. “She told me I was doing a good job on my vocabulary and to keep up the good work,” said Andrea.

The teachers at A Plus have also noticed a positive difference. “Andrea was pretty shy when she first came and now her demeanor is more boisterous and carefree,” said Angela Dixon, director of the A Plus tutoring center at Warren Park.

Andrea’s parents are pleased with the progress Andrea has made and notice that she needs less help with her homework than before. In addition, they consider it a bonus that A Plus is located at a park district facility. “While Andrea’s mom is waiting for her, she takes our youngest son to the park to play. It is a nice break,” said Reedone Suykur, Andrea’s father.

Andrea knows the value of a good education and is looking forward to her future sessions with A Plus. “Learning new things is very cool and also important for passing on to the next grade,” she said.