

On July 25, 2010, In Eugene, Oregon, Rikki Begay was nationally recognized for her achievement by the Board of Directors of the Association for Direct Instruction. Rikki was one of two students recognized by the Association in July. The Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting the use of Direct Instruction (DI) programs. DI is a series of curricula in language, reading, math and science and is considered a type of focused instruction. Rikki Begay was awarded “The Wayne Carnine Student Improvement Award” at a banquet held at the Hilton Convention Center. Rikki Begay lives on the Navajo Reservation with her family and attended Sanostee Day School as a third grader during the 2009-10 school year. Rikki received national recognition for her accomplishments academically with the help of a DI program called Reading Mastery. With the support of a DI program and implementation of a Response To Intervention (RTI) approach at her Sanostee Day School, Rikki was able to overcome her academic disabilities and was subsequently nominated for the award by the school.



According to her instructors, Rikki struggled with the foundations of reading like other children with disabilities but with engaged and explicit instruction that Reading Mastery provides, Rikki responded to the multisensory instruction for increasing her long term memory and was able to overcome her learning disability and started to build a solid foundation in reading. As a result of Rikki’s academic achievements, she has further developed her positive outlook on school. Also, Rikki has a greater understanding of what she can accomplish academically and it has had a positive effect on her overall social development. With the use scientifically based researched materials and the support of her parents, Rick and Nadine Begay, Rikki Begay has a very bright future.