

HELP SEND LAUREN TO THERAPY CAMP

Lauren King was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy Spastic Quadriplegia after being born 3 months early, weighing 2 pounds in 2005. Lauren is unable to stand, crawl, or use her hands independently. In 2009, after many ongoing physical and occupational therapy sessions her parents decided to attend a 5 week Conductive Education therapy camp. This is an extremely intensive therapy environment and we are proud to say that Lauren has greatly increased her ability to sit independently, her trunk control improved, her speech improved and her self confidence has soared since her first time at ability camp.

We are looking to bring Lauren back to Ability Camp in 2010 to build on the gains from 2009. Conductive Education is not a recognized medical therapy in Canada therefore families have to pay approximately \$10,000 for this 5 week therapy camp. We are seeking community support to help ease the financial burden of this valuable therapy camp.

DONATE AT ANY SCOTIABANK:

LAUREN KING IN TRUST Branch # 70516 Account # 0023914

Ability Camp January 2010 Newsletter - 3 to 6 year olds

Lauren was not able to sit up without support, she did not have a good grasp and would use a Pony walker which supported her full weight.

Over the five weeks of Conductive Education and Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Lauren made progress in many areas including learning how to sit on a stool and hold a chair for support. This was a large accomplishment for her as she learned to grasp and hold on as well as keeping her balance and improving trunk strength and control.

Sitting in a wheelchair or reclining chair does nothing to help the child build strength or coordination. When we can teach a child to hold on and maintain their sitting this can be carried on at home on a daily basis and this consistency will help her strengthen muscles and build coordination every day.

Things that we take for granted in an able bodied child must be taught to a child with CP or brain injury. Many parents will feed their child without requiring them to participate or neglect trying to potty train them because they are disabled and have difficulty sitting. Our programs teach parents how to help feed their child in a way that will help them learn to do it for themselves. We will also work on potty training if necessary as this is a very important skill as you do not want to be changing diapers on a ten year old if they could have learned to be potty trained.

As Lauren's grasping improved it allowed her to hold on while sitting, standing and stepping. At first it required two people to help her coordinate her movements in a walking position but by the time the session was over she had improved to the point where only one person was required to assist her take steps while pushing the walker.



Taking steps with assistance.