



# Neurodevelopmental Centers

## November 2014

Neurodevelopmental Centers (NDCs)- listed on the back page, are private, non-profit organizations that provide evaluation, diagnosis, coordinated treatment planning, and specialized therapy to children from birth to 21. Over 19,000 children with a variety of diagnoses such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, Autism, Attention Deficit Disorder, and overall developmental delay were served this year.

***These specialized services allow children to catch up in their development and reduce the burden of other state services which is a cost savings to the state. Without these services, children will not make the amazing gains they do when properly served!***

The Children with Special Health Care Needs Program (CSHCN) provides a base level of state funding to assure NDC's and the community have the needed capacity to provide these specialized services. CSHCN funding does not pay for actual services provided. CSHCN funding helps support each NDCs infrastructure to provide the services. CSHCN funding is only a portion of each NDCs total operating budget.

**Success stories like the following are why NDCs remain a necessary service to children and families!**

### Anything Is Possible

"This center is absolutely amazing! My son, J, started going there when he was just a baby because he had weak muscle/core and needed help learning how to crawl, walk, and gain balance. He also had communication issues (but was very bright!), and severe separation anxiety. By the time we left, shortly before his 3rd birthday, he was not only walking, but going upstairs, playing well with others after I would leave, and talking. They gave him the tools that will last him a lifetime. When the doctors told me they didn't know what to do, they stepped in and showed him and us that anything is possible through consistency, hard work, and compassion. The kids who go to Progress Center are not just clients; they become family, to everybody. Leaving them behind when we moved to the Tri-Cities was very emotional! I'm so glad that they were there. They gave my J a wonderful gift! Something that can never be repaid!"

(Progress Center - Longview)

## Our Happily Ever After

"Cora Dove was born at 37 weeks. She was 4 lbs. 9 oz. at birth and 4 pounds, when we took her home a week later, her weight gain continued to stall after that. We began making the rounds every week -- weight checks by the doctor; feeding checks by Kadlec's lactation consultant; supplementation checks by a local pediatric nutritionist. Her failure to thrive didn't improve and we began visiting specialists from Spokane and Seattle and testing for gastrointestinal issues and rare, fatal metabolic diseases. None of the tests were conclusive until our family doctor had her DNA tested. Aha! Finally we had an answer! The head of Seattle Children's Genetics department came to Richland to speak to us about Cora Dove's chromosomal abnormality, which he told us was a "sizable deletion" on her third chromosome's q arm. Her deletion is vanishingly rare; the doctor told us that only eight or nine other people are recorded with it. He said that the other children with her deletion are very small and severely delayed-- to not expect her to walk or talk very soon, or very much at all. That's when I met Tawnya, Cora Dove's occupational therapist, and Samantha, Cora Dove's teacher.



Tawnya and Sam were so confident that Cora Dove was going to learn and grow and began immediately helping her learn the skills and strength necessary for sitting up. They gave me exercises to do with Cora Dove at home. And finally, finally, for the first time in Cora Dove's life, we began to see improvement! A couple weeks ago, Cora Dove graduated not just from the Child Development Center, but from special needs services entirely. Unlike the other children with her diagnosis, she, at the age of almost three, runs, jumps, climbs, speaks fluently and plays like other children her age, and WITH other children her age. *This is our happily ever after! Rebecca Burton, Mom."*

(Children's Developmental Center - Richland)

## An Understanding Family

Ryland has already been under anesthesia fifteen times in his short lifetime. After being found unresponsive during a nap, he was diagnosed with severe reflux, secondary aspiration, severe delayed gastric emptying, and apnea. After more of these "blue spells," he had stomach surgery to improve reflux and also received a feeding tube. It was determined that Ryland's gastrointestinal tract does not function normally and his intestines don't contract the way they should. The feeding tube was not a perfect solution because of recurring intestinal infections and sometimes Ryland needed intravenous nutrition, instead of through his stomach. This caused deep-vein blood clots in his arms and led to a diagnosis of a blood clotting disorder.

When he was six months old, Ryland started speech therapy at the Spokane Guilds' School. His mom, Kalena, says, "Ryland has gone from not wanting to put anything near his mouth to begging for food on a regular basis." He calls his speech therapist, Meaghan, "Num, Num" because he loves to eat with her and every day he comes to school he gives his "piggy friend" (a piggy bank in Miss Korin's office) a kiss. Kalena says, "We are beyond grateful for the help that the Spokane Guilds' School has given us...and feel like we're part of a huge family that understands where we are and why we celebrate small victories."

(Spokane Guilds' School - Spokane)



### A Letter from “Jack’s Proud Mommy”

“It is my honor to appeal to you as a parent of a most magical child, who has grown by leaps and bounds under the instruction he receives through Birth to Three. Our son, Jack, was born with a cleft lip and palate, had some gross motor skill delays and developed sensory challenges at one year of age. There were many days and nights when my husband and I feared for Jack's health and happiness. He was constantly getting hurt from lack of physical strength and balance. He screamed for hours because we didn't know how to communicate or soothe him as effectively as he desired. I have so many video clips and photographs, documenting Jack's journey--OUR journey-- from birth to the present, and the highlight reel is chock-full of Birth to Three memories.

We will be forever grateful to Birth to Three and all of the financial support you provide so that families like ours can receive the gift of hope for our children's futures. Thank you very much for your support! Warmly, Jack's Proud Mommy.” (Birth to Three Developmental Center - Federal Way)

### Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

“Our daughter continues to exceed our expectations, given the support she gets from the SPARC team. We remember, in particular, one of her sessions with her occupational therapist. She was about 18 months and the occupational therapist said something like, focus on standing.

Well, for any parent this is an exciting moment, the first time your child stands. However, when you've been told that your daughter likely won't walk and her legs will probably never move, this was beyond exciting. We have video of her standing, yes standing! The occupational therapist is singing Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star and is bracing our daughter's hips, and she is standing!” (Skagit Pre-school and Resource Center - Mount Vernon)

For questions, please contact:  
cshcn.support@doh.wa.gov

360-236-3507

### Stellar Communicator

“Skagit Valley Hospital's Children's Therapy Program has helped my 5 years old son with Autism Spectrum Disorder in many different ways. He was using 1-3 word phrases to communicate and would use tantrums to initiate what he wanted. Now, after receiving speech therapy, he uses 3-6 word phrases and has fewer tantrums when communicating. He made these changes with 3-4 months of therapy. We are looking forward to receiving additional therapy in the future after seeing how much improvement he has done in that short amount of time. He also has changed the way he interacts with people; he makes eye contact, greets people and interacts somewhat more with help of his therapists.” (Skagit Valley Hospital Children's Therapy Center - Mount Vernon)



DOH- 970-214 – December 2014

*The stories and names of those involved were released for use by the authors themselves.*

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# Neurodevelopmental Centers In Washington State

Birth to Three Developmental Center, Federal Way

Boyer Children's Clinic, Seattle

Children's Developmental Center, Richland

Children's Therapy Center, Kent

Good Samaritan Hospital, Children's Therapy Unit, Puyallup

Infant Toddler Program of Holly Ridge Center, Bremerton

Kindering Center, Bellevue

Mary Bridge Children's Health Center, Tacoma

PeaceHealth Medical Group, PeaceHealth Children's Therapy, Bellingham

Progress Center, Longview

Providence Everett Medical Center, Providence Children's Center, Everett

Skagit Preschool and Resource Center, Mount Vernon

Skagit Valley Hospital, Children's Therapy Center, Mount Vernon

Spokane Guilds' School & Neuromuscular Center, Spokane

Valley Medical Center, Children's Therapy Department, Renton

Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, Children's Village, Yakima