

Case study – Brandon

Brandon is 11 years old and suffers from a rare condition known as L Chad. He attends Ivy House School in Derby City. Before starting on the MOVE Programme Brandon was very much in his own little world and didn't interact with his environment or other people. When starting school Brandon could only maintain his sitting balance for 30 seconds, he needed a fully supportive standing frame to help him to stand, and he was hoisted for all transfers. Brandon was also a regular visitor to the children's hospital, due to ill health linked with his disability.

Brandon started on the MOVE Programme at the end of 2004; functional goals were set with his family and these were worked on at every opportunity during the day by the whole team around him. Brandon gradually started to make progress and as his independent mobility increased he was better able to access the world around him. For the first time he began to engage with his environment and to actively explore toys and equipment.



Brandon continues to make fantastic progress. Since using the MOVE Programme he has lost weight and it has been years since he stayed in hospital. His health has really improved which has meant that his medication has recently been reduced.

Brandon's progress with the MOVE Programme means that he now sits and stands independently using a rotalite (a supportive piece of equipment) and he can even walk with minimal assistance for a few steps. One of his current goals is to learn to self propel his wheelchair so that he can get about on his own and become more independent. His mum is thrilled that he is now starting to show choice by turning the wheels and he 'goes all over the place'! He also wants to learn to climb the stairs so that he'll be able to climb the step up into the car to be able to travel sitting on a seat rather than in his wheelchair.

How far Brandon has come was evident on a recent shopping trip, when he was able to act like any other curious little boy after he took a fancy to a bunch of flowers in someone else's trolley and grabbed a handful for himself!

Another great change in Brandon has been his attitude. Initially he didn't like anything and would cry when standing or walking. Now he really enjoys movement, especially if this involves time on the trampoline, one of his favourite things.

One of Brandon's proudest moments was in the school year 2006-2007 when he won the Daniel Marsh Award at school. This award is presented to the pupil who has made the most overall improvement that year.



Life is a lot better at home too. Brandon is able to move about his house and can now get down from the settee gracefully and with some assistance walks from the living room to the bedroom, which makes things a lot easier for Mum. His Mum has nicknamed him 'monkey boy' because he enjoys swinging on the side of his cot bed, so that he almost falls over the other side and has already lost a tooth climbing up it!

Brandon's Mum Dawn says *"It's given him a new lease of life and opened his world up. I'm glad he is involved and causing trouble rather than just watching the world go by. I'm looking forward to the time when I have a zimmer of my own and have to chase after him!"*