

Conn (written by Conn's Mother, Stacy)



Conn is a six year old little boy full of life and happiness who was born healthy and was developing fairly typically until, at 17 months old, he had an acute metabolic crisis that caused damage to the basal ganglia area of his brain. Doctors are still looking for a specific diagnosis. As a result of that damage he has overall low muscle tone with sporadic high tone. This means that without assistance he cannot sit up, hold up his head or use his limbs very effectively. He is also not able to eat by mouth or talk. He understands a lot of what is going on around him and expresses his opinions, sense of humor, knowledge and personality by using his eyes, smile and sounds to communicate. He likes all kinds of jokes and starts smiling as soon as he hears the beginning of a Knock-knock joke. He adores school because he gets to hang out with fun kids and teachers. He loves his brothers because they are entertaining in a loud, active and silly way that thrills him. Although he cannot talk he expresses himself with his eyes, his smile and his cry and he lets us know what he understands by following directions and reacting to humor, sadness, etc. We would love for him to be able to increase his access to the world by gaining more independence and strength in his movement, communicating with purposeful gestures/vocalizations and maybe even use a power wheelchair for some independent movement. There is so much Conn cannot do but even more that he can do with the right kind of help and training. This is where Conductive Education comes in!! We heard about Conductive Education through researching different types of therapy and talking to his home therapists. What resonated with me the most about Conductive Education is that they treat the children's minds as well as their bodies. Conn may never need to know most of the academics taught in a traditional school but it is vital that his learning, curiosity and memory be challenged and developed along with the more obvious needs of his physical development. When he is at Conductive Education I love seeing him use his mind and body in conjunction through games, art projects and interacting with the people around him.