

## Naomi (Written by Naomi's mother, Stephanie)



Eight-year-old Naomi Logan was born in Niger, West Africa with a brain malformation called schizencephaly which causes mixed quadriparesis cerebral palsy. She was adopted by our family in December 2014, and has made remarkable progress in building strength, skills, and language. Naomi requires the use of a wheelchair or full-support gait trainer due to her fluctuating tone, and needs a g-tube to receive the majority of her caloric intake due to feeding ataxia. She is nonverbal, but as a cognitively typical child, she is becoming increasingly adept with her headmouse-controlled communication device. She has a

sharp sense of humor – a well-timed sarcastic comment will elicit delighted giggles, and some good potty humor leaves her in fits of belly laughs! Everyone who meets Naomi is immediately struck by her bright smile that lights up the hearts of those around her.

Naomi began Conductive Education in September 2017, when we began looking for a different therapy approach that incorporated more motivating play-based, social activities. Naomi loves to be with people, and the group setting has proven to be very motivating for her. Naomi loves nothing so much as a little friendly competition! In the short time since starting, our other therapists have noted marked improvement in Naomi's sitting strength and balance, and her willingness and ability to weight-bear on her arms in tummy time is remarkable. What I love most, however, is that she truly seems to enjoy their time with Jen and Jalyss. Every Friday when I announce Conductive Education day, Naomi gets very excited!