

Luke (written by Luke's mom, Amy)

Luke was born July 11, 2010 (born on 7-11 means he gets free Slurpees on his birthday for life). He was a surviving twin. His birth was complicated and somewhat tricky because developmentally he was just not ready to be out of the womb. He screamed and cried for 7 months. At 3 months of age, after chasing different avenues to try to discover what they were dealing with, and noticing that his head was not growing, they did an MRI and blood tests. It was finally determined that Luke had suffered an exposure to cytomegalovirus (CMV). His mom was exposed to the virus in her first trimester of pregnancy which likely contributed to the loss of Luke's twin. Only 14% of women have heard of CMV ... but it impacts more children than more well-known infections and syndromes. You can get more information on CMV by visiting www.stopcmv.org. The exposure to this virus resulted in severe brain damage by causing an interruption in the development of Luke's brain. They diagnosed Luke then with Lissencephaly, which is a rare brain formation disorder caused by defective neuronal migration during the 12th to 24th weeks of gestation resulting in a lack of development of brain folds and grooves.



In March of 2011 Luke had an assessment with Jennifer. Although it was too early to start Conductive Ed then, we did start about a year later. Jennifer is the best help for Luke that we've ever been exposed to. She is far and away so wonderful with Luke and has top-notch skills. In 2 hours, what she can accomplish is so thorough and amazing. We love Conductive Ed because we are looking for ways to teach Luke life skills and where he can do the best that he can do. Jen is gentle and graceful but firm and strong at the same time. Luke loves her. One of our many goals with Luke is to get his oral and swallowing skills to the point where he can partake in his free Slurpee each and every year.