

Kyle's Story

It was November 1999 and my husband Tim and I had just brought our son Kyle home after a long four month ordeal at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston. Kyle was born at 26 weeks, 1 lb. 4 oz., and it seemed like it took an eternity for him to gain the proper weight and development to be able to ever leave the hospital. We had been on an emotional rollercoaster, from the day of learning we were pregnant with twins, to losing our beloved son Taylor one month after his birth. While we were very excited and extremely fortunate to have Kyle home, we knew there was a long road ahead of us.

Within the first week home, we were introduced to an Early Intervention team from the Professional Center for Child Development. We could tell right away they were experts in their field, but that was not only what was clear in our minds. As soon as they walked through the door we realized that they truly cared. They became a great resource for support for our entire family.

From occupational and physical therapy, to speech and music therapy, the way they grasped my son's needs and worked with him was amazing. They incorporated so many means to the goals set for Kyle. While the home visits lasted for 3 years, Kyle was a little over 1 year of age when we starting bringing him to the Professional Center to begin socializing with other children. Becoming over-stimulated was a major obstacle for him, so they allowed me not only stay with my son the entire time, but permitted us to come and go as much as Kyle could handle the situation. This type of flexibility was crucial in his development and shows why this school is so special.

As each month passed, Kyle could stay longer and longer, and I was slowly able to leave him within the care of his teachers and aides. For Kyle to feel so safe was a major accomplishment. My husband and I were excited that he was embracing something so strongly. Another aspect of the school that I personally benefited from was the Parent Group. I greatly benefited from being able to talk to other parents who have been through so much. To have that support system right at the center was a tremendous resource and a great sounding board when going through tough times. The Thursday morning sessions were always very beneficial and helped put everything in perspective.

At age three Kyle graduated from Early Intervention and was fortunate enough to stay at the Professional Center in their Developmental Day School for the next two years. Staying in this program was critical for Kyle. His teachers always knew when to push him to achieve another goal and when to hold back. They were constantly thinking ahead of what Kyle could try next. Soon he looked forward to school and I would have to hold his hand from the car to the school door because he was always running full speed ahead. He loved to look at all of the pictures of the staff and read their names when he first walked in the door and then would continue happily down the hall to his room. We knew that when we dropped Kyle off at school he would be with people who truly care and love him and that is what comforted us the most.

Kyle was introduced to the Professional Center since his first week at home and has received their care for five years now. It is truly a home away from home for him. From the theme weeks to the field trips,

the school was always innovative in creating happiness for all the school children. Kyle has come so far it is amazing. We know it is from the love and dedication of the teachers and staff. This has been a life evolving experience for our son and our entire family. We will be forever grateful and will miss everyone dearly. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Kelly, Tim & Kyle