

## Expressing our Thanks

Your donations to Five Counties Children Centre make it possible for Brittane and other children to get the assistance they need.

Our highly-trained and experienced staff has helped over 17,000 children and their families achieve amazing successes. With 3,000 children currently receiving therapy, there is a good chance that Five Counties touches the life of a child or family you know.

### HELP US DO MORE.

Your assistance helps Five Counties reach out to even more children. Together, we can help them achieve their goals, reach their dreams and live the life each and every child deserves.

*Touching lives and making dreams come true.*



Proudly serving the counties of:  
Peterborough, City of Kawartha Lakes,  
Haliburton, Northumberland

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# What We Do for Kids is *Amazing*



*You can help us do more.*



# Discovering Her Voice



## A SILENT PROBLEM

From an early age, Brittaneer had difficulty pronouncing certain sounds and often stuttered or spoke in incomplete words. Friends and acquaintances found it hard to understand her. They would sometimes finish her sentences or ignore what she was trying to say.

Brittaneer became so upset and frustrated by this that she began to give up. She started to allow her twin brother, Ayrran, to speak for her.

*"It annoys me when I have to keep repeating things or people ask my parents 'What did she say?'"*

## ASKING FOR HELP

Brittaneer was losing confidence. She wasn't participating in class and was avoiding social activities. Her parents turned to Five Counties for help when Brittaneer was in Grade 2. Over the years, Brittaneer has found both a teacher and a friend in her speech therapist Lyn. Together they work to overcome Brittaneer's speech difficulties, such as pronouncing "st", "sh", and "ch" sounds and completing words.

*"Lyn is a friend I can count on."*



## LEARNING TO COMMUNICATE

A customized program has been developed to help Brittaneer learn. Lyn uses special flashcards, workbooks, word games and a sticker exchange to focus on Brittaneer's trouble areas. These help develop speech skills while having fun. Specialized parent resources are also being used to encourage growth at home. As Brittaneer's ability to make herself understood increases, so does her confidence.



*Before I sat in the back of the class and didn't talk.*

*Now, I sit with my friends and speak up for myself."*

## SPEAKING FROM THE HEART

Today, with ongoing help from Five Counties, Brittaneer continues to improve her speech skills and gain self-confidence. By remembering to believe in herself, she finds the strength to face new challenges everyday. Even though it isn't easy for her, Brittaneer is committed to telling her story through public speaking. She is learning to overcome her shyness and now participates in a wide variety of group activities including karate and dance. In the future, she hopes to work with disabled people and help them realize how special they are.

*"I am special because there is no one else like me."*