

When Isaac struggled with his hand-eye co-ordination at age one, Five Counties staff were there to help him develop those skills. When his hearing challenges delayed him from learning how to speak, they supported him in learning his colours and shapes.

Isaac was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, but his mother believes there is more affecting him. He 'graduated' from Five Counties' services when he started school, like many children do. Shortly afterwards, he began taking prescribed medication to help him stay calm and focused. He is happiest when he is active – playing lacrosse or running.

Now, without these services, the 7-year-old is struggling in school and life. His mother Mara desperately awaits the chance to get him off the waiting list for school-based speech therapy, where his name has lingered for two years.

"I had such positive experiences with Five Counties; I want that again," Mara says. "He's at a standstill at school since the teachers can only do so much."

Five Counties offers services and treatment to more than 4,000 children each year, including more than 1,200 in Northumberland County alone. **However, the demand for services outstrips the government funding available, so children like Isaac wait, falling ever further behind.**

Isaac is acutely aware that he is two grade levels behind his classmates at reading, grammar and sentence formation. "His teachers are doing everything possible," Mara says. "He could excel even further if he had more support. They cannot give him the one-on-one attention that he needs. When he has that support, he thrives."

Five Counties staff have provided Isaac with a sensory pillow to keep him in his seat and a squishy ball to absorb his restless energy. However, he needs help to develop the specific skills he needs to get him on the path to succeed at school, which will help to boost his confidence.

"Staff at Five Counties see what I'm going through and do their best with suggestions or behaviour modification," Mara says. She particularly enjoyed a course on dealing with a "spirited child," leaving feeling validated that she was a good parent doing all she could for her only child. Meanwhile, she knows that getting professional services will do more.

Donors like you help children in our community reach their potential by ensuring more of them can get the services they need, when they need them. **With your continued commitment, we can get more children and families the care they need, so they can get on with building their abilities for life.**

Mara

Mara

P.S. Please help Five Counties Children's Centre get more children on the road to being the best they can be by contributing an annual or a monthly gift. By investing in their futures, you open doors to brighter days ahead.

