

He may be small, but no one should underestimate him.

Just a month before his second birthday, my son Scott discovered the freedom of walking on his own, thanks to a mini-walker built just for him. Six months later he took his first steps without it, it was amazing.

While Scott has worked really hard to get to this point, my husband and I understand how fortunate we are to have the right team of therapists to support him.

Scott was born with a severe form of Cornelia de Lange Syndrome. Most kids we know with the same condition cannot even sit up yet. They are not expected to walk until age four to six, if they live that long.

Yet our determined little boy does front rolls at his gymnastics class every week.

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Scott started coming to Five Counties when he was a week old, so he could learn to eat without choking. His Syndrome is characterized by slow growth which makes him short for his age with four fingers on one hand. His physiotherapist worked on Scott's balance as he was learning to sit up and crawl. She also suggested adding a strap inside his walker to give him more stability and more confidence.

He was cheered on in the hallways by staff as he zipped from room to room, with a big smile on his face. Only my grin was wider. He made me so proud.

I often tell people that Scott doesn't go to physiotherapy every week, I do. Jennifer, a Five Counties therapist, is teaching me

how to encourage him to do more; I am his physiotherapist.

Next, we plan to have him compete in a children's triathlon this summer, alongside our two daughters. After all, we want him to have the same opportunities our daughters will have. It's great to see him as a typical two-year-old. Now we are getting to see what he's capable of and it's so fun. He's so happy!

My family and I see so many children coming into Five Counties' waiting room with questions – like we had. It's even harder for those whose children remain on the waiting list, hoping for that call to come and meet the kind and insightful staff who will show them how to help their child. I cannot imagine where we would be without the team who helped Scott.

Watch for him at the triathlon this summer!



Joanna