

*“Owen is learning life skills to help him reach his greatest potential.”*

Owen is a loving six-year-old who is always there to give a hug and kiss to his family and friends. He has a passion for old cars, old tractors, and dinosaurs. It seems anything old holds Owen's interest!

When Owen was a baby his parents, Ashley and Dan began to notice some delays in speech, fine motor skills as well as crawling and eventually walking. They saw these red flags and began advocating for their son. Mom, Ashley said “I always thought Owen had autism, and when the doctor told me he did, I cried. But I didn't cry because I was sad, I cried because I was relieved to finally have answers. I was excited to get him help.” Finally, at two and a half years old, Owen was referred to Five Counties Children's Centre. And at three and a half Owen started his Five Counties journey.

Owen uses multiple programs and services at



the Centre. His journey began with speech and language therapy, and later on he started receiving occupational and feeding therapies as well.

Owen and his parents have put in a lot of hard work. After 4 months of speech therapy at Five Counties, Owen started speaking in the first person. With the help of his speech therapists, his parents support, and his own perseverance, Owen has grown so much in the last couple of years. “His speech and writing skills have tremendously improved. Recently we realized that he can draw pictures which was something that he couldn't do before.” said Ashley. This was such an exciting milestone for Owen, when his mom and therapist saw this, they both wanted to cry they were so proud and happy for him. Ashley spoke about Owen's current speech goal “pronunciation and communication, trying to get that back-and-forth conversation”. She stressed the significance of this goal for Owen, “it's important for his future. It's a skill he needs so that he can be as independent as possible as an adult. That's my main goal with him. I am trying to get the best version of Owen I can get for the future. At Five Counties, Owen is learning life skills to help him reach his greatest potential.”

*“Truly, thank you for everything Five Counties has done for my family and for Owen.”*

