

# Talon's Story

Have you ever met a daredevil? Or wondered if you might meet one someday? Well, if you met my son Talon, you'd know for sure you had met a real daredevil. This fearless, football enthusiast is not afraid of trying anything, and he's so excited to be playing rep football this year. Talon was diagnosed four years ago with O.D.D. (oppositional defiance disorder) and ADHD, because of that communication is difficult for him. Sports have been a great way for him to let his emotions go as football allows for physical play, without the frustration of speech communication.

In addition to this, Talon is at high risk for a severe learning disability. I was both overwhelmed and thankful when Talon was diagnosed, overwhelmed with the diagnosis and at the same time, thankful that he was going to get the help he needed.

For Talon, being unable to communicate with others is tough. Because of this there is a lack of understanding between him and his peers. Talon struggles to express himself and has emotional outbursts because he is so frustrated. Lack of communication leaves him feeling misunderstood and judged.



It's so important for children to get the help they need when they need it. Being on a waitlist is tough, it leaves you just waiting and hoping for help. If children could get the help they need, without a long waitlist, it would lessen the frustration. Although Talon was on a waiting list for some time, now he has access to help. Our family has found the team at Five Counties to be very helpful, understanding, compassionate and family friendly. At Five Counties, the speech therapists and occupational therapists don't push Talon, they allow him to go at his own pace. Although the work of speech therapy may be frustrating for Talon, he's able to get past his fear of not wanting to talk, for fear of being made fun of and is starting to experience the joy of being understood. His eyes light up when someone understands him. He can even have a conversation with his brother now!

Hope and happiness, these are two of the biggest impacts experienced by our family through our interaction with Five Counties staff.

**Hope has been given to Talon and he's happy, happy to begin to experience the joy of being understood.**