

# Know Me

NAME *Dainesha*

PASSION *Music*

## My Story

Meet Dainesha, an eight-year-old student at Rebecca Stallman Southgate School.

She loves school and participates by using a communication device to express herself. Dainesha loves taking turns in group sessions, delivering mail to and from the office, talking with the nurses and answering questions.

She loves hanging out with her friends at lunch time, in recess and in the classroom. Dainesha has a great sense of humor and loves telling jokes.

Dainesha is a real trooper. She will always try her best, even if she is not feeling well, you can count on her to inspire others.

*Continued*



## What's a communication device?

Dainesha uses Auditory Scanning (AS), a communication technique designed to address the needs of individuals with severe speech, motor and visual impairments. In AS, a communication device with a synthetic voice announces vocabulary items, one at a time, until the user hears what he or she wants to say and selects the item.

To help Dainesha select a word or item, an adaptive switch connects with her communication device, allowing her to activate the device when she needs it. Ability switches are designed for people with physical disabilities, offering them an alternative means to interact with computers, speech generating devices, appliance controllers and switch adapted, battery powered toys.



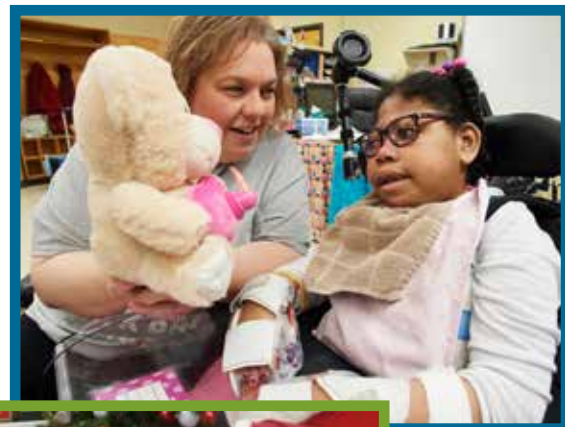
YouTube

Since her arrival at Stark DD's Southgate School three years ago, Dainesha has accomplished many goals. She has learned to use a communication device with one switch auditory scanning. This was not an easy task, but with her determination and hard work she is now able to talk to her family, peers and staff throughout her day.

Dainesha can now make individual choices, operate adaptive stories on the computer, answer questions, take turns, engage other students and use a variety of switches for a many different academic and recreational tasks.

She is a peer model. Her peers are able to accomplish more when they see Dainesha model the skills they are also working toward.

Our hopes and expectations are that as Dainesha continues to learn, and that one day she will be able to share with us and her family what her dreams are for the future.



# Know Stark DD



**Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities**

*Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families*