

# Know Me

NAME *Tyler*

PASSION *Being with people*

## My Story

*As written by parents Joe and Emily Wilson:*

Tyler is a spectacular little toddler with so much ambition and spark! From day one, he has been our strength.

He was born with a Diaphragmatic hernia, and we found out about his condition when I was 20 weeks pregnant. Tyler's diaphragm did not completely form, and this hole allowed his stomach, intestines, spleen, and part of his liver to come up into his chest cavity. This pushed his heart over to the right side of his body as well as blocking the entire left lung. He was on a heart, lung bypass machine for 4 days to allow his body to rest. Tyler spent four and half months in the NICU, and had five additional hospital stays after he came home. The last admission was another painful three months. From the hernia repair, feeding tubes, infections, fluid in the lungs, and a brain injury, we were so thankful to finally make it home for good. Our life at the hospital was over, and we started to heal.

Tyler loves to play drums, sing songs, and play with his twin brother and sister (Harper and Lincoln). Tyler enjoys his Disney movies, and loves watching football with his dad on Sunday's.

We were not ready for Tyler to face the real world at preschool, but attending preschool at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center has been the best thing that has happened to him. Tyler has learned to walk,



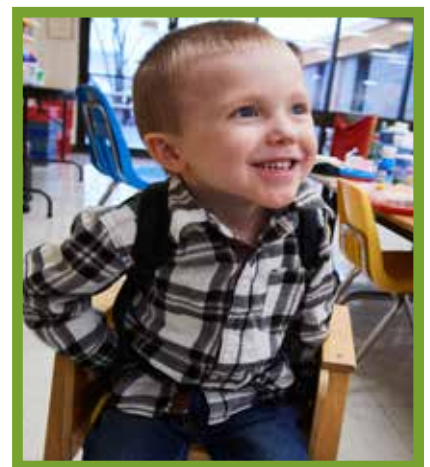
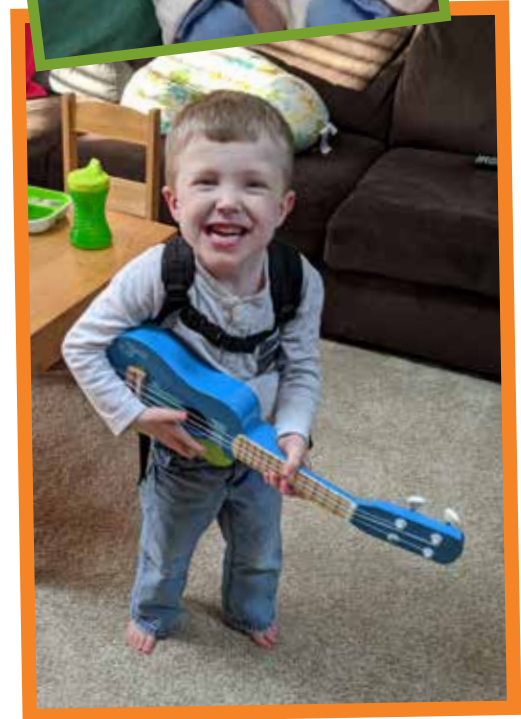
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talk, love on his teachers/classmates as well as form an incredible personality. The entire community of Louisville has stood behind him, and have learned a great deal from his journey.

Michelle Mckenzie was our Stark County Early Intervention occupational therapist and feeding specialist. She turned his life around. She believed in him just as much as we all did.

Since Tyler had a rough start, he was behind on the social skills. Being involved at school has taught him how to love on people, and how to listen. Tyler is still 100% tube fed through his gastronomy tube (g-tube) in his stomach. Eastgate staff are working with him on eating, and he has made leaps and bounds. It is amazing to receive physical therapy, occupational therapy, as well as feeding intervention while at school.

We are looking forward to watching Tyler grow each and every day. Eastgate has made such an impact in our lives, and I know each staff member will always hold a special place in our hearts. Thank you!



# *Know* Stark DD



**Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities**

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