

# Know Me

NAME **Ayleah**

PASSION **Adventures**

## My Story

Meet 13 year old Ayleah Keen, a middle school student at Rebecca Stallman Southgate School. As told by her mom, Stephanie, Ayleah was diagnosed with "failure to thrive" at a few months old and began having seizures by the time she was 9 months old. A referral to neurology and genetic testing followed with a diagnosis of [Angelman Syndrome](#) at 15 months old.

"Ayleah is happy and ornery most of the time. She enjoys movies and shows on TV or her iPad. She enjoys comedies (slap stick humor) and anything with music in it. Ayleah has an infectious laugh," said Stephanie.

"Her passion is Adventure. Ayleah loves to be around people, watch people, interact with people, hug and love people. People generally reciprocate her affections; friends and strangers alike. She is a thrill seeker and likes an adrenaline rush. From roller coasters and fair rides to kayaking or go-carts. She loves musicals and live performances of any kind. She loves anything that involves water and the pool or beach is her favorite."

"Ayleah's greatest strength is her persistence and along with persistence comes adaptability. If she sets her sights on something, she will not give up until she accomplishes it.

Ayleah does not walk but will scoot (quickly) to get anywhere she wants to go. She utilizes a gait trainer and is so proud of herself when she is

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## The Many Smiles of Ayleah



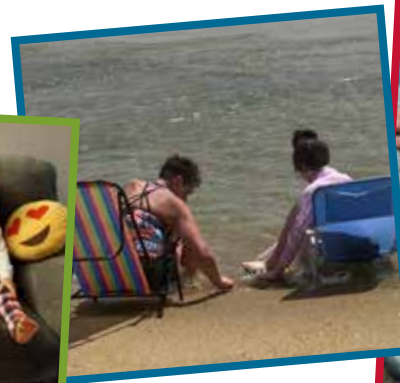
YouTube

able to be “on the go”. She is mastering her wheelchair and maneuvers it with great intention. She also communicates and socializes with others in her own way. She will work to get the attention and affection and hugs she is looking for.”

“Ayleah’s dream for the future is to continue to build relationships. She has family and friends in her life and she loves nothing more than to spend time on an adventure, watching TV, hanging out on the swing, parades, going to school, playing baseball, or visiting with family/friends.”

Ayleah has been involved with Stark County Board of DD from Early Intervention services. Financially, Ayleah is able to live in her family home and be as independent as possible with supports from a Medicaid Individuals Options (IO) Waiver.

“In the early years they provided me with the tools, resources, parent connection, and support to be an advocate for Ayleah. They also provided therapies and socialization for Ayleah. The ongoing services and support she has received provided her to be the best version of herself. They care for her with love, patience, compassion, and excellence.”



# Know Stark DD



**Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities**

*Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families*