

Know Me



NAME **Gabriel**

PASSION **Playing on the Swing**

My Story

Meet 5-year-old Gabriel Ovidiu Marginean, a preschooler at Stark DD's Preschool at Taft Elementary in Plain Local Schools. Get to know his story, as told by his parents, Ovidiu and Denise Marginean.

Gabriel was born to about a month premature on June 27, 2016, with 4lb 1oz. Left the hospital with 3lb and 15oz, but seemed at that time normal situation. After an incident, which appeared to be a seizure, he was hospitalized for about three days and run several tests but again everything came back normal.

On a regular visit with our neurologist in Akron, the doctor recommended further genetic tests, which ultimately showed that Gabriel has the 1P36 deletion syndrome. Traits of this kind of syndrome are late development in pretty much everything with the uncertainty on how the development will be – whether slow or almost non-existent.

From what we've learned from other similar cases, a child with 1P36 deletion syndrome can develop to be like any other child by later ages 17 through 20, or can remain less developed – each case is different. However, so far Gabriel has shown good signs of progress.

His passion, or should I say passions: walking, and playing on the swing, playing with cords or any kinds of wires. Strengths: very independent, very cautious – if he's not certain about something he will not do it, great personality, he likes the water (playing in it), he likes to scribble and draw. He understands very well all we tell him in both English and Romanian even though he is not verbal yet to respond back to you. When he does not like something or does not want to do something, you'll know for sure.

Dreams for future – from him we don't know yet, from us we hope and pray that everything will be coming well. We thank God for everything has given us with Gabriel and try every day to give Gabriel everything he needs to be happy and grow well. Triumphs - He has overcome his fears of climbing steps. We taught him how to always be able to be safe in going up and down the steps and his doing great. He likes to be depending on someone for those hard tasks but we

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YouTube

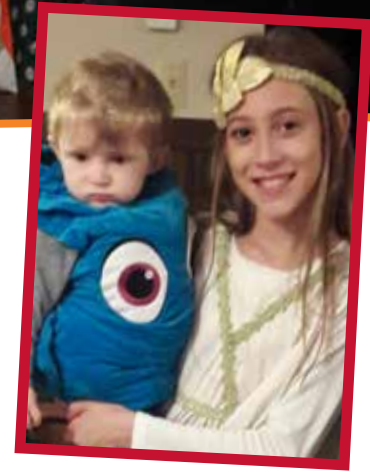
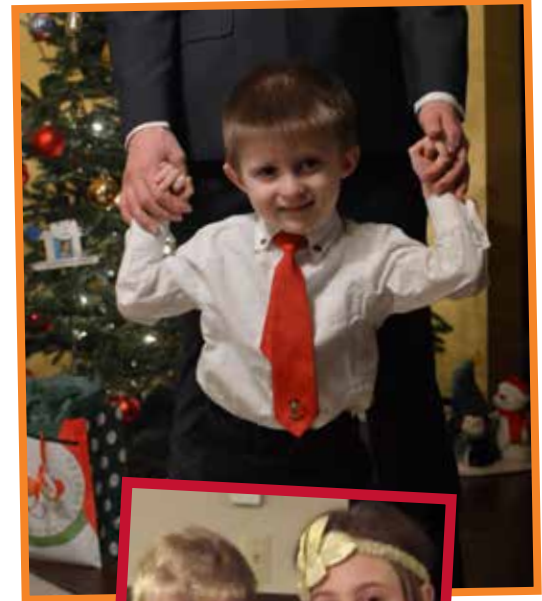
teach him to do as many as possible on his own – like climbing steps, opening doors, etc.

Stark DD has offered same environment like home, but away from home. There he learned more and more how to eat on his own – showing him the fork that has the food on it so that he would do the motion of eating. Stark DD helped us with that tremendously – we continued to do that at home. Akron Children hospital through the therapy services (Physical, Occupational and speech) as well as Stark DD gave Gabriel a great place to be in, surrounded by people who care and look after him and his needs very well. We truly love the fact that we are offered therapy at school for Gabriel as well which makes a lot of difference in his development.

Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center Intervention Specialist Jennifer Petrick, was Gabriel's teacher during the 2020-21 school year. "Gabriel loves pens, puffs, and pacing. He loved to color," said Jennifer. "We modified his task box to include coloring items that he liked along with his IEP goals. Over the course of the year he was able to complete part of his morning routine. He would bring his folder into the room and put it in the basket."

"Gabriel also loved eating puffs. He would get so excited when we pulled them out for snack. He even realized where we kept them and would go over and point and vocalize to get them," said Jennifer. Gabriel also uses some sign language to let people know what he wants.

Therapy supports helped Gabriel learn to get in and out of a small child's chair, as well as working with him on his walking. "Gabriel loves to walk," said Jennifer. "He would walk back and forth in the classroom all the time. He would also walk around in circles in the gym. Last year he increased his speed and was able to navigate through smaller spaces. He is a sweet happy boy who loves sensory items, tickles, and books," said Jennifer.



Know Stark DD



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