

Delilah Huff

Written by parents, Brittany and Heath

Meet Delilah, 3-year-old daughter of Brittany & Heath.

Delilah is passionate about many things. Though the main few are:

- Rocks
- "Ms. Rachel" on YouTube
- Her Squishmallow collection.

She even has a specific squishmallow that she takes everywhere and another she wont go to bed without!

Delilah is always on the move and has no fear. If she's not running, she's jumping or spinning in circles. Her big brother, Ryker, may be 7 years older than her, but boy, could she keep pretty close to him in a race.

While she is currently non-verbal (that means she doesn't verbally speak words) Delilah has picked up on other methods of communication such as American Sign Language, pointing, and the use of a speech communication tablet. Between the three...she gets her point across!

Amanda Shull, Delilah's Early Intervention Specialist, was her first support from Stark DD, which began shortly before her official Autism diagnosis in 2021.

Amanda was so kind, helpful, and patient while doing our remote/video chat sessions (Thanks to COVID). The assistance and compassion Amanda gave during such a crazy time in both our lives and amidst the pandemic was amazing. We cannot say enough great things about Amanda AND Stark County Early Intervention services!"

Then came the transition from early intervention to preschool! Delilah began attending the Autism Program at <u>Stark</u> <u>DD's Eastgate Preschool</u> in the fall of







1 in 36

The Center for Disease Control recently released increased numbers for the prevalence of Autism. It is now reported that one in 36 children are on the spectrum.

2022. There she not only gets to learn and interact with her peers, but she also receives multiple therapies each week, including Speech, Occupational, Physical, and even some Applied Behavior Analysis therapy (ABA)! However, if you ask her teachers or therapists, I'm sure they'd say her favorite room is definitely the gym.

We are amazed with the growth & progress everyone at Eastgate has helped Delilah accomplish in the few short months she's been there, and we cannot wait to see what the remainder of her time at Eastgate helps her succeed at!

Since receiving her Autism diagnosis,
Delilah and our family have completed
multiple walks including the <u>Autism Society</u>
of Greater Akron's Autism Awareness Walk
and <u>NAMI Stark County</u>'s Mental Health
Awareness Walk!

We participate in these activities because
1. Delilah loves moving
2.We like to help bring awareness and
learning opportunities to the public on these
two very important topics.





"Sharing knowledge is one of the best ways to support families of neurodiverse kiddos!"







