

HELP FOR GOOD

Riley



Stark County
Board of
Developmental
Disabilities





Riley

Riley is so loved by her parents, Michael and Iris Guthrie, as well as her sisters, Dakota and Emmalynn Chick, and Maggie and Naomi Guthrie. According to Iris, Riley was diagnosed at 18 months with Autism Level 3, non-verbal, global developmental delay, low muscle tone, hypermobility and many small conditions. They were told Riley was functioning at a 2-9 month old developmental level. With the assistance of the wonderful therapists at Dayton Children's Hospital, Green County Help Me Grow, and then Stark County Help Me Grow and Early Intervention after moving to our community, Riley began walking at 2 years of age.

Riley is now 4 years old. With the help of the staff at Stark DD's Eastgate Preschool, Riley's mom states "Riley is not non-verbal anymore! Oh no! She is talking more and more every day! She is singing, too! I can't get enough of hearing her finally (talk) after nearly 4 years!"



Riley's mom tells us that Riley could only say "momma" when she first started at Eastgate Preschool after just turning 3 years old, and now both her family and school staff hear her daily imitating everyone and everything she hears. Riley happily participates in all school activities and has a great bond with all of her classmates and staff. Mrs Guthrie continues, "From the moment she gets on her bus, (Riley) loves her bus driver and all the aides. They have always been amazing help in the mornings and evening rides home."



Iris says that the whole school staff will always be a special part of Riley's and her lives. Riley's mom highlights Miss Taylor Edwards, Riley's preschool intervention specialist, whom she states "has taught Riley so much over the last 2 years at Eastgate. I am so blessed that we chose Eastgate for her preschool schooling." Iris includes the occupational, physical and speech therapy personnel in expressing her appreciation for the "leaps and bounds Riley has made in the last 2 years." Iris continues, "Riley loves school and I can see why. She is loved by all who come into contact with her."



"Riley is the sweetest, lovable, happy, silly girl that everyone falls for and it shows. She can lighten a room with her cuteness. She loves to help and learn new things every day. She comes home singing and repeating things she has learned. It's such a joy to watch her blossom every week more and more. We have high hopes for Riley's future (and that) she will be like any other child thanks to the staff at Eastgate Preschool. Her sneaky sassy will show everyone she won't let Autism stop her."

Riley's parents state they love Eastgate Preschool and will cherish all the memories made together with their daughter. "Thank you, Eastgate, for everything!"

