

Arterial Ischemic Stroke

Jude's Story

Jude got off to a rocky start, facing a variety of serious medical scares in his first few hours of life, capped off with a stroke. It took a strong will for him to get to where he is today. Now 2 years old, he's still calling on that same will and motivation that helped him survive as a baby to tackle every new dream and challenge.



Born on Dec.7th, 2014 at the Janeway Hospital, Jude's delivery was text book. But just hours after he was born, he was transferred to the Newborn/Infant Intensive Care Unit (NICU) as nurses had noticed that he had several sleep apneas during the night in the nursery. Over the next few weeks, Jude's life hung in the balance. After suffering 12 seizures and having to wear a CPAC machine for 4 days, Jude's parents finally got their answer. Their newborn son had suffered a stroke. Days before Christmas he was released to go home but this is where his work began.

Jude had suffered an arterial ischemic stroke, which occurs when blood flow in the brain is blocked. The family had already worked with a number of specialists in their time at the Janeway but now began new relationships with Dr. Mohamad Alam, MD, a Pediatric Neurologist and a team of occupational, physical and educational therapists.

With his care being coordinated by the Stroke Program/Cerebral Palsy Clinic, Jude had access to all of the specialists he may need during his recovery, working together with a focus on minimizing damage from his stroke and preventing

another. The rehabilitation team began a structured series of exercises designed to help him recover from the effects of the stroke. Jude spent three to four days a week at rehab appointments but his parents also looked into private care for Jude, as to give him the best chance at recovery they could. Part of this treatment was seeking the advice and help of an Osteopath in the community, Dr. Matt Gibbons, who the family credits much of Judes success in areas such as fine motor function to. He has now recovered normal movement in his right side.

Making therapy fun

As Jude grew, Karen, Jude’s mom, worked hard at making therapy fun. “You have to bring joy into whatever it is you’re doing,” she says.

The approach worked. Jude had four therapy sessions a week for a year and a half and never showed distain of being there. Between his Osteopathic therapy and regular follow-up visits to the Janeway for PT, OT and speech therapy, he has made great strides. He now has no trouble running, jumping and climbing with the other kids on the playground.

“He’s very motivated,” says Karen when reflecting on her son’s perseverance. “Strong-willed and positive. He’s my little light. He’s perfect”

