

Laz (written by Laz' Mother, Stephanie)



Born in Ghana, Lazarus (Laz), age 11, joined our family through adoption in 2016. Laz has dystonic quadriparesis cerebral palsy of currently undiagnosed etiology. He is incredibly strong and determined. He currently uses a wheelchair for long distances, but is getting progressively stronger in his gait trainer as supports continue to be removed. He is now able to

dress and undress independently (with the exception of shoes), climb stairs with a railing, and transfer out of his wheelchair to the floor independently. Laz has speech ataxia and uses a communication device when his verbal speech isn't understood. However, since being diagnosed with auditory neuropathy and being fitted with hearing aids this summer, he is making clearer speech sounds, and his receptive and expressive vocabulary have exploded! Laz is a wild extrovert – a born entertainer and the center of attention at all times. His goofy antics keep his siblings in stitches, whenever they're not looking for the volume control to turn him down!

Laz began Conductive Education in September 2017, when we began looking for a different therapy approach that incorporated more motivating play-based, social activities. Laz loves to be with people, and the group setting has proven to be very motivating for him. Laz is just happy to have a fresh audience! In the short time since starting, our other therapists have noted that Laz is stronger and more able than he realizes, he has demonstrated more self-confidence and willingness to take risks toward greater independence. What I love most, however, is that he truly seem to enjoy their time with Jen and Jalyss. Every Friday when I announce Conductive Education day, Laz asks with trademark enthusiasm if he'll get to use “the new walker”