



*Early Intervention and Family Support ~ Programs and Services for Young Children & Families*

## Jayden

As most of you know, we provide a variety of services here at the Children's Center. Jayden is a boy who has been able to take advantage of almost all of them. Jayden was referred to the Children's Center in March of 2012 after he was diagnosed with Autism. His mom, Shalane, was concerned about his lack of interest in his peers and his limited communication skills. His previous school reported that Jayden was extremely sensitive to loud noises and busy environments and could become aggressive when he became overwhelmed. Jayden started here receiving Individual Specially Designed Instruction in the morning, and Specially Designed Instruction in the inclusive group setting in the afternoon. Jayden also received Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy, and Case Management Services. Upon getting to know Jayden, the staff at the Children's Center realized that he needed a smaller classroom environment to foster his growth. Jayden moved to the specialized "Friends Express" program, which focuses on decreasing maladaptive behav-



iors through a high level of structure in a less stimulating environment with 2:1 support. The staff in that room soon realized that Jayden would best benefit from 1:1 support in an even more structured environment. Jayden transitioned to the Stepping Stones program that is specifically designed for children with Autism. Jayden received Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy through our School Based Section 28-Specialized program. Meanwhile, Jayden was also receiving In-Home Section 28 services, to help increase consistency between home and school. Jayden made tremendous progress during this time and his team knew he was ready for more of a challenge. Jayden was transitioned into the Busy Bees classroom, and started receiving Section 65

services, which focuses on emotional and social goals. I have watched Jayden throughout his time here at the Center, and am happy to say that I have had the pleasure of being his teacher for the last 6 months. His transformation has been amazing to watch. Jayden went from a child who appeared to be completely disengaged, who barely tolerated other children in his space, to a child who is eager to learn, who actively seeks out peers to play with him. Jayden is able to not only express how he is feeling, but also handle it appropriately. Instead of getting angry and becoming aggressive, Jayden is now able to say "I'm frustrated!" and use one of several coping skills that he has learned, including counting to ten, or

taking deep breaths. Jayden is excited to go to Kindergarten, and I'm excited for him. I know that he is ready to take on his next challenge, and I am confident that through the hard work of his family and many caring people here at the Center he has everything he needs to be successful.



### *Mark your calendar!*

#### **13th Annual Chili Chowder Challenge**

**Saturday, March 22, 2014**

**11 am - 2 pm**

**Augusta Armory**

[www.chilichowder.com](http://www.chilichowder.com)

### *Inside this special*

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## Cheyenne

Meet Cheyenne and her Mom, Dorette! Cheyenne is a happy, healthy, five year old little girl who lives with her Mom in Madison, and attends kindergarten at Madison Elementary School. Cheyenne has an infectious laugh and loves people. Cheyenne has made tremendous progress since she and her family first engaged in services at the Children's Center over 2 ½ years ago.

When Cheyenne and her family started services with the Children's Center, Cheyenne was two and a half years old. Cheyenne had severe language and communication delays. Cheyenne was non-verbal, and used about five signs to communicate. Mom reported that Cheyenne "...kicks, screams and bites. She climbs onto high objects to jump off, and runs into the road." Mom was seeking support and resources to best meet Cheyenne's needs. Cheyenne had few social opportunities, due to her aggressive and unsafe behavior. Through Targeted Case Management and early intervention services Cheyenne was able to access many services to support her success.



Shortly after Cheyenne started services, she was diagnosed with multiple disabilities. One of the goals for Cheyenne was to increase her socialization opportunities, so Cheyenne attended preschool at Miss Kelly's Learning Loft in Skowhegan a few mornings a week. During preschool at Miss Kelly's Cheyenne attended station time, circle activities, and recess. In this setting it became apparent that Cheyenne needed adult support to be successful throughout her day. At home, it became a goal to receive in home services to support her family and to carryover techniques being used for her to make developmental gains. Coupled with her social experiences at Miss Kelly's Learning Loft, Cheyenne also attended Woodfords preschool in the afternoon for educational services. Being at Woodford's allowed Cheyenne to access multiple providers in one environment. Cheyenne is a true success story of how a mother can advocate for her child's needs and how a collaborative effort within the community can support a child's success.

Today Mom reports Cheyenne is "funny, friendly, curious, and enjoys being with

people." Cheyenne transitioned to Kindergarten in August. And, although the Children's Center staff were sad not seeing her on a weekly basis, we rejoice in this next chapter for Cheyenne.

Mom reports Cheyenne wakes up each morning now and eagerly says "bus." Cheyenne completes her morning routine quickly, and takes Mom by the hand to go outside and wait for the bus. While outside waiting for the bus Cheyenne often says "no road," and shakes her head, reminding herself and Mom to not go into the road! Cheyenne's Case Manager from the Children's Center, Lori, recently observed Cheyenne in her kindergarten classroom at Madison Elementary School. When Lori walked into the bright, cheerful classroom Cheyenne came over and grabbed Lori's hand, smiled up at her, and said "hi." Cheyenne sat next to another child, looked at him and giggled as the teacher was reading a book. Cheyenne clearly feels safe and supported in this nurturing environment. Cheyenne's teacher described Cheyenne as being "a ray of sunshine" in their classroom, and that she puts a smile on their face every day. When Lori was getting ready to leave, Cheyenne said "outside, after lunch," in an effort to connect to Lori through positive communication and to assure herself of what is to come next. Mom recently stated to Lori, "All I ever wanted for Cheyenne was for her to have as normal a life as possible, experiences that all kids have." Cheyenne is doing that - and so much more!

Join us in celebrating what is to come next for Cheyenne!



## Your support... and why it matters

“At the Center, every person is included and celebrated for their unique and valuable strengths that they bring to the world. The Center is where children and families can receive all the services they need to establish a strong foundation for their lives.”

*“Here at the Children’s Center we provide quality care to children with and without disabilities. We create a loving, nurturing, learning environment for them to grow. We all play a part in helping each child reach his or her full potential, and create an atmosphere where children feel comfortable to be themselves, and can feel confident that they will always be treated with unconditional love and respect.”*



“What we do matters because families deserve services in one place. Children and families with a strong, early start, will continue on a path of growth. When people are treated as valued individuals, potential and hope become limitless. Self-esteem grows, relationships are established, participation in the community is fostered and a sense of belonging exists.”

*“I come to work excited every day because we do witness miracles and so many “firsts” - first words, first phrases, first steps, and so much more. It is amazing to watch children overcome ‘obstacles’ and gain new skills!”*

## Different ways you can shape the future:

### **Memorial Gifts**

Memorial Gifts honor the memory of someone who has passed away and provide a heartfelt, meaningful way to express sympathy to a family. Families are notified of gifts made in memory of their loved one.

### **Tribute Gifts**

Tribute Gifts honor living individuals, often to acknowledge birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, births, or to acknowledge other special occasions. Businesses and individuals may make charitable gifts in someone's name in lieu of traditional holiday gifts.

### **Matching Gifts**

Many organizations and companies have programs in place that will match your gift, maximizing your support. Check with your employer about the availability of this option at your workplace.

### **Bequests**

Leaving a gift of real estate, personal property, or cash is a wonderful way to create a legacy of caring and support for the young children of central Maine.

### **Sponsorship**

Community businesses and other community organizations have been instrumental in the growth and improvement at the Children's Center. There are numerous ways companies and organizations can sponsor programs and services here.

**Please contact us for more information on any of these avenues of support. Development Office: 207-626-3497, ext. 130**



# Children's Center

## Early Intervention & Family Support

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The Children's Center Early Intervention and Family Support is a nonprofit organization that provides innovative programs encouraging the individual growth and development of young children with and without disabilities, and provides strong supports for their families.

We offer early intervention services for young children with special needs, child care for young children ages six weeks through five years, and we provide family services, supports and trainings. We have been serving central Maine for over 45 years.

*Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Barron; Contributors: Angela Jackson (child's story); Lori Knowlton (child's story) Bethany Bourgault (photos)*

## Spotlight on the Center

*The Children's Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.*

We are thankful for... Every One of You, Our Community of Supporters!

"I'm thankful for my Mom and my Noni and my puppy."

- Brayden

"I am thankful for my mommy, my daddy and me."

- Logan



"I'm thankful for meatballs and turkey and a lot of stuff... I like a lot of things... and friends!"

- Mike

"I'm thankful for my car, my truck and Mimi's puppy Daisy"

- Chris

"I'm thankful for turkey and colors and friends."

- Lillian