



December 2015

My name is Jessie Gregg. I have a boy named William Gregg. I had him at 29 1/2 weeks. He had a level 1 and 2 brain bleed and has a high muscle tone and low tone in the trunk. Willie has been going to Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy for coming up 2 yrs now. This year he just started combat crawling and reaching and talking more. But his belly muscles are so weak it was hard for him to sit unassisted and makes it hard for him to practice crawling. Tummy time for Willie isn't much of an option any more because he hates it. He's going to be 2 on the 19th and I can't really make him stay on [his tummy].

One day I was driving and made a wrong turn. I saw Manito Horseback Riding. I had seen babies with special needs like Willie do therapeutic riding on Facebook. So I gave them a call. They accepted Willie with open arms and began riding lessons instantly with Jenn.

Willie has been riding 2 times a week, 30 minute sessions, since beginning of September. We are coming up on almost 3 months now and the biggest difference has been made for Willie already. His tummy muscles have gotten so strong he can now sit independently on his own, play, and watch television. He can sit in a booster seat out to eat and a high chair. Now grocery shopping is so much easier!! I am so thankful to the staff and volunteers at Manito for helping get my baby there. I really have tried everything to get Willie what he needs. Torso strength was a big thing he needed and he has got it. It has worked muscles Willie didn't even know he had.

Raven, Willie's horse, is fabulous. She puts up with Willie. She is a very calm horse and loves babies. I also love that Manito is open all year round. I can not wait to see the progress through this winter. I'm very grateful for the staff and Raven at Manito. They have done what I thought was going to be impossible for my Willie.



Sincerely,
Jessie Gregg