

“Thanks to the innovation of an occupational therapist, Dylan can be independent, and play just like any other little kid.”

The innovative work of an occupational therapist and an engineer has given my son newfound freedom. He was born critically ill and has cerebral palsy, and not expected to live. Today, he is seven years old and drives a motorized vehicle.

We went to see Dylan’s occupational therapist and she brought out a little jeep that had been adapted by TETRA, a volunteer organization of engineers, technicians and health professionals that create assistive devices for people with disabilities and allow them to gain greater independence.

Our occupational therapist said Dylan was going to drive it that day. I was very skeptical as he doesn’t have control of his arms, legs or feet. He also needs to be supported when sitting. But I said, “Okay. We’ll go along with it.”

Our occupational therapist made a bib of plastic, armed with a control button and a happy-face switch, and fastened it around Dylan’s neck. We buckled him in the jeep which had a head rest for support.

To drive the jeep, Dylan had to press down on the button with his chin for it to go forward. And within an hour and a half, he was going up and down the halls, operating it himself. It was amazing. We were all in tears.

Dylan is a sweet little boy and a smart little boy. For him, it was freedom. The look on his face was like, “Wow – I am doing this all by myself.” It was priceless. It was the first time that he was able to run something on his own.

Dylan’s occupational therapist is amazing. She doesn’t limit children with special needs, even though, as parents, we are very protective. And TETRA is a great society. I can’t say enough about them.

Today, Dylan uses an adapted corvette, modified by TETRA, to drive all around the yard, down the driveway and up the street.

It is something we never thought he could accomplish. But now he has.



Occupational Therapy – Skills for the job of living!

For more information on occupational therapy or to find an occupational therapist near you, please visit www.otworks.ca