

Meradith



A good pregnancy + no prenatal concerns = a healthy baby! That's little Meradith. On December 21st, 2009 she was born full term with no complications. Following her birth, the doctors became concerned and wanted to run some tests. They mentioned that Meradith may have Down Syndrome and they wanted to be sure. One tough, long week later, Meradith and her family received the diagnosis of Down Syndrome.

After returning home, Lisa {mom} received a phone call from Help Me Grow {HMG}. Lisa was so happy to have someone reach out and guide her and her child in a positive direction! HMG linked mom in with the Down Syndrome Association of the Valley support group. Mom called DSAV and spoke to Kelly Donadio. Tentatively, Lisa told Kelly that she just had a baby with Down Syndrome...Kelly replied "Congratulations!". This was the first time anyone ever said "congratulations" to Lisa since the birth of her baby. It made her so happy and she knew everything would be okay. Lisa and Meradith are regular participants in the DSAV programs, including the Buddy Walk, which Meradith has now participated in for two years. HMG also linked Lisa and Meradith with Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Meradith was assessed and began center based programming in February 2011. She is enrolled in a classroom two days per week, where she receives occupational, physical and speech therapy. Even though transportation is available for all Early Intervention children, mom chooses to transport Meradith herself. By doing this she is able to regularly connect with the EI Specialist, Sissy Swegman and the Service Coordinator, Debbie Hernan. Lisa says that her experience with HMG and TCBDD has been extremely positive and "we don't know how we could have survived without HMG and Fairhaven". We at the Fairhaven School love when Meradith comes into the school and brightens the room with her contagious smile! We are so happy to have that healthy baby girl in our EI family!!