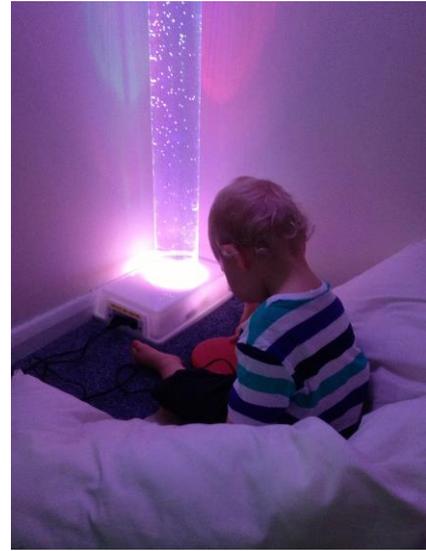


To the Joshua Hayday Helping Hand Trust,

We just wanted to say an enormous thank you to the Joshua Hayday Trust for funding equipment for our son, J. It has already had such a huge impact. Having a large fold up mat has enabled us to allow him free time on the floor and he is rolling more than ever before. Using the push switch and toy, we have introduced him to the notion of cause and effect. He absolutely adores the bubble tube and by plugging in the switch, he is able to control the flow of the bubbles. He is hugely motivated to do this and for the first time ever, we feel that he really does now grasp cause and effect. J also suffers from painful full body muscle spasms and using the bubble tube as a calming distraction technique has really helped.



We are working with J on posting shapes into the musical shape sorter and by doing this, hand over hand, we hope that he will eventually develop the ability to release items from his grasp. We are so excited to receive the oral motor developmental toy. J is obsessed by mouthing everything and I don't think there is any doubt that he will love it!



When the new term begins I hope to launch a special needs group which will allow other children to use these items as well. (The childrens centre has been handed over from the local authority to a charity, which has slowed things down, but the group is still in the pipeline!) In the meantime, we know a lot of special needs children from our various hospital stays and it so nice to have things in our house that they can also benefit from.

On a personal level, these items have made such a difference to our day to day family life. It is fantastic to be able to just put him down on the mat, knowing that he can't hurt himself or to go and sit by the bubble tube with him. We have no idea what the future will bring, but we have had many lovely moments together thanks to these items.

Thank you so much for your kindness in providing this funding.