

NEURODEVELOPMENTAL CTR for CHILDREN-EAST

To Whom It May Concern,

Malachi is a 6 year old boy with the diagnosis of Spastic Quadriplegia Cerebral Palsy. Malachi was born at 30 weeks gestation with complications including microcephaly, periventricular leukomalacia, and seizure disorder. He subsequently developed Spastic Quadriplegia Cerebral Palsy. As a result of these birth complications, Malachi demonstrates poor head control and trunk control and hypertonia in all four extremities. He is unable to hold his head up for extended periods of time and has difficulty moving his arms and legs. He currently can ring sit independently on the floor when placed, but is unable to transition in and out of this position without total assistance. He is also undergoing baclofen injections into leg muscles to allow for increased range of motion as his immobility leaves him at risk for muscle contractures and other deformities. He receives weekly therapy and a home program to target his mobility needs.

An equine-therapy or therapeutic riding program is being recommended for Malachi. This activity is related to his therapeutic goals as it allows him to experience fluid motion which he is unable to initiate independently. This motion will allow him to work on strengthening, head and trunk control, and balance reactions which are all integral parts of his current therapy goals. Increasing and/or maintaining range of motion is another important part of his therapy and the riding program stimulates the vestibular system through fluid motion to decrease tone for Malachi and allow his muscles to stretch. The riding position will place Malachi in a functional prolonged stretch to increase hip stability and muscle length.

Since this initial recommendation was made the, funding has been denied and his family, who are already burdened with a variety of expenses related to Malachi's care, have decided to pay privately. He has had one riding session immediately prior to his regular physical therapy treatment. In this physical therapy treatment that day; he has able to tolerate increased stretching of his leg muscles and achieve better results than seen with the prior medical treatment alone. I will continue to recommend this activity as an important step in reaching therapeutic goals for Malachi and other children with similar therapeutic needs.

Thank you for your attention into this matter

Heidi Miller PT