

Isla's Trike



Isla was just three months old when her parents, Rebeca and Jody, became concerned by their baby's lack of development. They raised the issue with their GP and shortly after, Isla was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Now aged five, Isla faces multiple challenges and despite numerous physio sessions she cannot stand unaided. Rebecca, researched children living with SMA and found many were successfully using specialist tricycles, and following a consultation with Isla's physiotherapist, an assessment was arranged with a manufacturer. The perfect trike was identified and Isla's parents immediately saw how their daughter was excited by the prospect of some 'grown up wheels'.

With the trike costing £2,225, Rebecca and Jody turned to charitable organisations for funding, without success. Almost a year went by before they heard about React, and they agreed to submit one last application.

Rebecca reported: "We cannot thank you enough, Isla always wanted to ride a bike like her sister, and she is over the moon with her tricycle. It is already benefiting her development as she builds her leg muscles and she has even begun to pedal it herself a little bit. Thank you so much for responding to our application so quickly."

Isla

Storage Shed for Ruby & Amelia's Family

Identical twins Ruby and Amelia were born in 2018 to Mum, Katie and Dad, Peter. Both appeared to be healthy babies

but during routine visits from a Health Visitor, Amelia was found to be developmentally delayed. Alarmingly, Amelia started experiencing seizures and for 3-4 months the family struggled to obtain a diagnosis, until Amelia was admitted to hospital with Bronchitis. It was during this time, Amelia was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome, a rare genetic condition that affects brain development. Her sister Ruby underwent similar tests and devastatingly, was diagnosed as having the same debilitating illness.

Four-year-old Amelia and Ruby communicate using eye movements and Katie told us how they both have very different personalities. "Amelia is very 'chilled and laidback', whereas Ruby is very 'sassy' and will be the first to let you know if she doesn't like something!"

Needing double of everything, the family struggled with storage space due to copious amounts of medical equipment, and their two-bedroom bungalow was becoming cluttered and crowded. The family already knew about React and its services having benefitted from previous help, so we were more than happy to help solve their storage problem.

Katie told us how the shed React provided has proved a 'massive help' and explained "Time can be very limited with so many frequent hospital visits, so having somewhere to store equipment safely and out of the way is one less thing to worry about."



Ruby

Amelia

P-Pod for Charlie

Four-year-old Charlie is described by loved ones as a "Happy Chappy", despite his traumatic start to life. When Mum, Chloe

was in labour, Charlie suffered a significant bleed on his brain, while still in the womb. Charlie was incubated as soon as he was born, and doctors diagnosed HIE, a cerebral palsy-like movement disorder, with severe dystonia and seizure

Charlie is unable to sit up unaided and has very specific postural needs. He uses a chair provided by healthcare services to support him correctly, but it is not the most comfortable and after sitting in it for prolonged periods of time, Charlie can often become irritated. His parents noted that, whenever he visits the local hospice, he sits nicely in a P-Pod, appearing comfortable and happy.

With the help of Charlie's OT, Chloe reached out to React, and was over the moon when she heard we could help. Chloe told us, "We were actually quite shocked when we received the call from React, as we did not think we would get any support at all. Charlie loves his P-Pod, and thank you for making the whole process so quick and easy".



Charlie