**DCC & Child’ Name**



***Written & illustrated by***

***Author 1
&
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**Hi! I’m Child’s Name.**

**I am 10 years old, and I have blonde hair and blue eyes.**

**I love chocolate and rollercoasters.**



**I live with my mommy, daddy, twin sister Eliana and cats Ripley & Rosie. We have lots of fun together.**

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**My family loves the water and sea life.**

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**I have trouble doing some of the things that other 10 year olds do because I have DCC.**

**WHAT IS DCC?**

**DCC stands for dysgenesis of the corpus callosum.**

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**The corpus callosum is a part of the brain. It is made of MILLIONS of nerve fibers. The corpus callosum connects the right and left sides of the brain and helps them to communicate.**

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**The two halves of the brain are like two cities separated by a river. The nerve fibers of the corpus callosum are the bridges that connect the two cities.**



**Thoughts and ideas use those bridges like cars and trucks to go back and forth.**

**I have DCC so that means that part of my corpus callosum is missing.**

**This is a picture of my brain showing my corpus callosum in the middle.**

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**I don’t have MILLIONS of nerve fibers connecting the two sides of my brain.**

**Thinking can be hard work for me. Where you have superhighways in your brain, I have some dead ends and back roads.**

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**Sometimes my thoughts get caught in a huge traffic jam and I have trouble doing things that are easy for you to do.**

**Sometimes when I wake up in the morning, I am able to do something that I was not able to do when I went to bed.**

**During the night, a connection was made in my brain.**

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**I love coming to school each day and seeing my friends. But learning new things can be very hard for me.**





**Things that are easy for you to learn, are hard for me to learn.**

**Things that are hard for you to learn, like reading, will be even harder for me to learn.**

**Teachers have to have a lot of patience with me.**



**Having DCC has given me weak muscle tone. This means that it took me a long time to be able to sit up, crawl, and walk. That is why I wear braces on my feet to help me walk straight.**

**It also means that it is hard for me to put together sounds into words and talk. I have 10 words and am working on more. I use my Ipad and sign language to help me communicate.**

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| **I can say:** Yes  No  Go  Gain (for “again”) Ipa (for IPad) Arm Help  Ball Op (open) | **I use sign language to say:** All done Music More Thank you  |

**To help me get stronger, my parents built a therapy room in our basement that looks like a pirate ship. It has a trampoline, swings, slides, a climbing wall, sand box and ball pit.**

**Playing in the basement is really fun!**





**Things are hard for me but I keep trying. Until I was 4 years old, I needed the help of a walker to walk but now I am able to jump and to run around and play on the playground at school. I like playing on swings and slides the best.**

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**Some things, like math, will always be hard for me.**

**But there are a lot of things that I can do.**

**I like to go bowling.**



**I ride a special bicycle that let’s me use my hands and feet to pedal.**

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**I ride horses at the Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding and Horsemanship Center.**

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**I go to baseball games with my daddy and watch the Reds play. I like it when they play the baseball song and love watching fireworks after the game.**





**I had so much fun snow tubing at Perfect North.**



**Last summer my family vacationed in Jamaica. I loved swimming in the pool and the ocean but my favorite thing was going down the water slide.**

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**Last year, I won a gold medal in the Hamilton County Special Olympics for throwing.**

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**This morning my mommy said “You work so hard to do the things that you do. You always keep trying.”**

**“And now we can have more fun playing together,” added my sister Eliana.**

**My daddy said, “I can’t wait to see what you will be able to do next. You are amazing!**

**I said, “That’s because..**

**I’m Olam.
And I have DCC.**

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