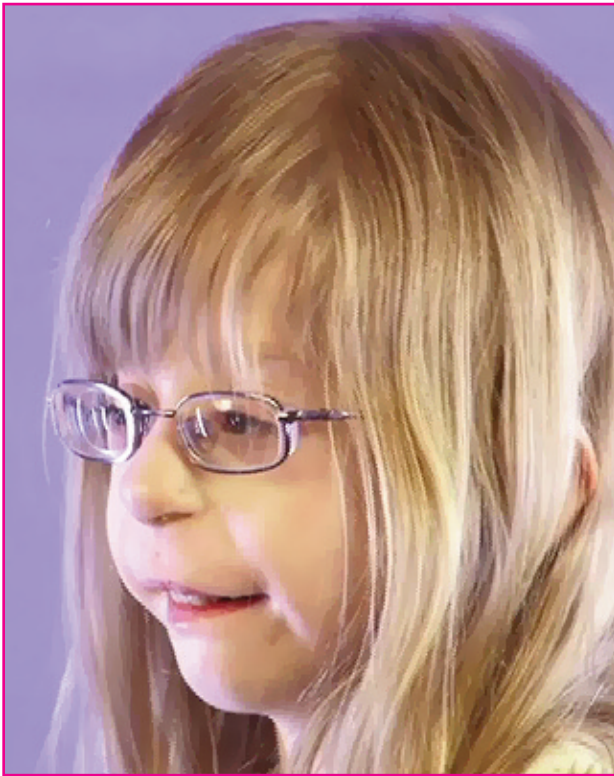


Standing Helps Hope Walk!

HOPE RINGEINSEN STORY



Name: Hope Ringeinsen

Diagnosis: Opitz C Syndrome

EasyStand Owned: EasyStand Bantam

Current Standing Program: 4-5 times a week for 2-3 hours

Other Equipment: Gait Trainer, Walker

Hope's standing story is unique, because she can walk using her walker and doesn't require a wheelchair for mobility. Hope was diagnosed at a very young age with Opitz C Syndrome, a genetic random anomaly that tends to affect the bones and ligaments in the body. Hers mostly affects her legs, hips, knees, and ankles. Hope uses a standing frame to lengthen the muscles and tendons in her legs as she grows so that she can maintain her walking ability. "Hope is taking growth hormones, and as her bones grow, it is important to keep her muscles stretched so she does not get contractures," Hope's mother Bobby Jo explains.



“Hope and Mrs. B will teach kids how to do fun activities like make a volcano, handprint art, paint and much more, all from her EasyStand!”



“At first they rented us a stander, until they found out it was going to be long-term. Then they gave us a permanent stander and covered every thing on it. All we had to do was sign on the dotted line!”

REASONS FOR STANDING

Hope’s doctor recommended a standing program for her to keep her muscles stretched. Hope’s father Mike knows the importance of standing, “Right now we are using the stander to lengthen the muscles and tendons in her legs as she grows to maintain what she has. She is on growth hormones that cause her muscles to grow and they effect the way her tendons feel.” He continues, “If Hope was not using the stander, her muscles would contract and she wouldn’t have the range of motion that she has now.”

STANDING COMPLIANCE

Hope uses her EasyStand about 4-5 times a week for at least 2-3 hours at a time. Hope’s mom, Bobby Jo describes how standing fits into Hope’s daily routine, “Her standing time depends on the day and how she does at school. Hope attends a full day of kindergarten. She has an IEP and needs help with some writing and reading skills. “She mostly uses a walker in school since she is very mobile, but does tire easily when walking the long halls of her school. During the summer months, Hope stands more often since she has more free time,” Bobby Jo adds.

STANDING ACTIVITIES

Hope enjoys using the tray on her standing frame both in the seated and standing position. “It is easy for her to do activities because her EasyStand tray is at the right height and is adjustable.” Her mom says. “She likes to color and work on handwriting skills with her sister. Hope also plays with clay and practices cutting it with a scissors. She even plays with her brother’s cars on the tray while standing. All of these activities are great for building her fine motor skills and working on dexterity.”

HOPEABILITIES!

Hope is the inspiration behind a new series of videos we are creating for kids, parents, teachers, and therapists called HopeAbilities! Hope and Mrs. B will teach kids how to do fun activities like make a volcano, handprint art, paint and much more, all from her EasyStand! The goal of HopeAbilities is to give parents and school staff ideas of fun activities that all can be done from a stander. Kids can learn, play, and get standing therapy in at the same time.

FUNDING

Funding is a concern for many parents of kids with disabilities. Luckily, Mike and Bobby Jo were able to get Hope’s stander paid for on their first attempt. Mike explains the process, “Our therapist thought that the Bantam was very good fit for Hope and contacted an EasyStand supplier. They got all the documentation together and submitted it to the insurance company.” Some state Medicaid or insurance companies have a rental period for standing frames to determine standing program compliance. Mike explains, “At first they rented us a stander, until they found out it was going to be long-term. Then they gave us a permanent stander and covered everything on it. All we had to do was sign on the dotted line!” Hope’s family is fortunate to have the process for getting Hope’s stander covered by insurance to be so seamless.

CHALLENGE: PREVENT LEG MUSCLES FROM TIGHTENING AND CONTRACTING AS BONES LENGTHEN.

SOLUTION: USE A STANDING FRAME TO LENGTHEN MUSCLES AND TENDONS, ALLOWING A MORE UPRIGHT POSTURE FOR WALKING.

CHALLENGE: KEEP ACTIVE KIDS ENTERTAINED WHILE THEY USE A STANDING FRAME.

SOLUTION: MAKE FUN ACTIVITIES READILY AVAILABLE TO THEM (LIKE TOYS OR CLAY) OR HAVE THEM PRACTICE SKILLS FOR SCHOOL.



“Right now her stander is maintaining, lengthening and straightening her legs so that as she grows her muscles stay loose, allowing her to stand more upright as she walks!”

PRODUCT IMPROVEMENTS

The Magician-ei was the first stander Hope used, but her family decided to purchase the EasyStand Bantam. Hope’s dad comments on the differences that he noticed while standing his daughter. “The EasyStand products are getting better and better. The improvements make standing so convenient, it’s much easier to go up and down and the trays are now easier to clean.”

THE RIGHT COMBINATION

“At first we started using her stander to strengthen her legs and to get more range of motion in her knees and ankles, preparing her to walk. When she became strong enough to walk and could stand up a little straighter, we started using a gait trainer.” Mike says. The combination of using a standing frame to maintain the straightness of her legs, and strengthening and lengthening of the tendons and a gait trainer to help her start walking was very effective for Hope. He continues, “After much improvement and growth, Hope had to have surgery. Following the surgery, standing has helped to maintain the benefits that surgery gave her and she continues to use the gait trainer/stander combination to keep walking.” Hope’s gait has greatly improved since her last surgery and maintaining a standing program.

MAINTAINING GROWTH

Little by little Hope is growing, adapting and improving on the abilities that she had. Hope’s father explains why standing is unique for Hope. “Right now her stander is maintaining, lengthening and straightening her legs so that as she grows her muscles stay loose, allowing her to stand more upright as she walks!” Simply stated, standing helps Hope walk and she loves that. Hope says with a smile, “Well I stand a little bit because I like to stand, I like to walk but I can’t always walk!”



STANDING PROGRAM:

4-5 TIMES A WEEK
2-3 HOURS A TIME

PHYSICAL BENEFITS:

LENGTHEN MUSCLES
STRAIGHTEN LEGS
IMPROVE WALKING
MAINTAIN GROWTH

STANDING ACTIVITIES:

COLORING/WRITING
PLAYING CARS
CUTTING WITH SCISSORS
MOLDING CLAY

HOPEABILITIES ACTIVITIES:

MAKE A VOLCANO
PAINTING AT A EASLE
HANDPRINT FLOWER
NAME ART
SENSORY SAND TRAY