

March 6, 2006



Dear Frances, Sandra, Bev, Erinn and RTES Board Members:

I would like to sincerely thank you all for continuing with the therapeutic riding program for children with disabilities. It is because of your ongoing effort that children like my daughter are being helped in so many different ways.

Rebekah was born with a condition called ocular motor apraxia, which means that she has difficulty moving her eyes. This greatly affects her balance. She did not walk until she was 25 months old and even then she was prone to injuries from falling because of her balance. She was working with different people, including a physiotherapist.

Since starting the riding program with RTES this past year, Rebekah has shown great improvement not only in her balance, but also in her core strength and confidence. Her physiotherapist, who she continues to see, has noted and commented on this. He is familiar with the program and knows other children who participate.

Rebekah now loves to show off her abilities to balance and lift heavy things now, by putting on "shows". She can run with confidence and doesn't fall down as much as she used to. When she does, she can react quickly enough to not sustain injuries like before.

Rebekah loves riding Duffy and she has learned a lot of horse riding skills, which she would love to continue. She would really like to do horse jumping in the future - she knows this already and she is only 4 years old! In fact, she says she wants to ride by herself (without her side-walkers). I said maybe when she gets older and becomes a very good horseback rider. She says, "But Mommy, I am a very good horseback rider ALREADY!" Erinn is an excellent teacher and she made the sessions extra fun for Rebekah with the "tricks" and flips they did.

We will be moving to Ontario within the next couple of months so unfortunately cannot continue with RTES, but we do wish to thank you very much for accepting Rebekah into the program and working with her to see this great improvement. Keep up the good work!

Yours truly,

*Heidi Williams*

Wayne & Heidi Williams

Rebekah, Melanie & Emily