

## *I wish to have a Hippocampe stroller*

Lucy, 9  
genetic condition



Lucy is a happy, social, mischievous nine-year-old. She loves blueberry pancakes, grilled cheese sandwiches, music, Llama Llama books and swimming. Lucy was diagnosed at birth with a rare syndrome, Wolf Hirschhorn, which affects 1 in 50,000 children, resulting from a deletion on her fourth chromosome. Lucy is profoundly intellectually and physically challenged, non-verbal, has low muscle tone, and a severe form of epilepsy. Lucy had her first major seizure when she was eight months old. Thankfully, Lucy hasn't experienced a major seizure in 7 years; however, while she takes multiple medications, she continues to have a hundred or more small seizures (seconds long) daily. While these seizures don't cause any long-term damage, they are still a cause of concern as they can result in accidents, including falls.

As with many diagnoses, there is a varying degree and severity of symptoms, and means Lucy's future is full of uncertainties. Lucy doesn't hit developmental milestones at the rate of her peers. She sat unassisted for the first time when she was two, and at 9 years old, can walk a few steps on her own, before needing assistance. In 2019, Lucy was granted a wish, a new Hippocampe (an all terrain mobility vehicle that comes with beach wheels for the summer, and ski attachments for the winter). Our family is grateful every day for this incredible gift. We love the outdoors and spend a lot of time at the beach during the summer months. Many daily activities that people take for granted, are more challenging for families for whom accessibility is a consideration. Lucy can now enjoy more of the activities she loves.

We love exploring our beautiful province and Make-A-Wish has made this a reality. Our family can regularly be spotted on trails, in parks and at beaches from coast to coast. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank the donors who make wishes come true.