

## Sample Portfolio Pages

Thanks to all the families who so generously shared pages from their portfolios!

### Our Vision for Nicky

Our vision for Nicky is simple. We want him to have the same opportunities as any other member of our community.....to live, love and achieve whatever dreams he may desire. We recognize that Nicky's school experience will play a major role in his accomplishments.

It is important to us, Nicky's parents, that Nicky be seen for what he can do and not for what he cannot do. We have appreciated the environment that has surrounded him at Hairgrove where differences are accepted and attempts are made to educate those who may be fearful or ignorant concerning the culture of disability. We value the team at Hairgrove that has remained constant in their efforts to create community where Nicky and other children with disabilities belong.

We want Nicky to reach his full potential academically and socially. Both areas hold equal importance to us and to Nicky's future successes. If he is part of a community where all children are valued and belong, he will know it and he will rise to the occasion. We are confident that environment exists at Hairgrove.

The following values are important to us as a family:

- ⊗ Nicky is loved and his strengths are celebrated
- ⊗ An school environment exists where diversity is nurtured and celebrated
- ⊗ The use of People First Language is expected and adults model appropriate responses to questions regarding differences
- ⊗ Nicky is never pulled or segregated for any reason without our consent
- ⊗ We are an integral part of the team that supports Nicky in his education







*Dear Junior High Faculty & Staff,*

*We'd like to introduce you to our son, David, a member of the Junior High School student body. We thank you for taking the time to read David's portfolio.*

*The purpose of this portfolio is to provide you, the team that will support him, with a good picture of David. We want you to have the pertinent information you will need to help make his eighth grade year another successful and meaningful year.*

*We look forward to working with you!*

*Laura & Ron*

Please check your name off the list included at the back of the portfolio and pass it to another person on the list. Thanks!



## Our Hopes and Dreams



We want Zak to be accepted, not treated as a list of symptoms or classified by how he is different from other children - but honored for his feelings and sense of pride.

Zak is keenly aware and accepting of himself and others. We hope a classroom goal would be helping others accept him. He is bright social child who likes to play, is eager to have friends, a hard worker, wants to please and yet, cries when his feelings are hurt.

Zak needs, wants, and has the right to be given every chance to fulfill his up most potential and his chance for happiness and success.



## TREVOR LIKES...

July, 2001

...to GO! Going out to eat is his all time favorite thing to do. And of course going to fun places like the beach, the pool, the mall, birthday parties, Grandmama's house, baseball games, etc... is always a hit. But even just running errands or going to an appointment will do. Anything besides sitting at home!

...Swimming! Give him a little support from an adult or a float, and he's paddling and kicking all over the neighborhood pool. He loves to "jump" the waves at the beach, and turns into a New Braunfels "River Rat" every summer.

...Baseball! Trevor started playing Challenger Little League last Spring and will continue to play this season. He gets to go to lots of Rice Owl ball games, and loves to listen to baseball "play-by-play".

...Food! Mexican food, Italian food, cheeseburgers, pizza, hot dogs, mac 'n cheese, pudding, ice cream, chocolate... We all wish we had Trevor's metabolism.

...Music, Books, Jokes. Trevor has lots of books and tapes that he enjoys listening to - all the typical stuff for a guy his age. And when he wants to, he can be quite the comedian telling riddles and knock-knock jokes with his Dynavox.

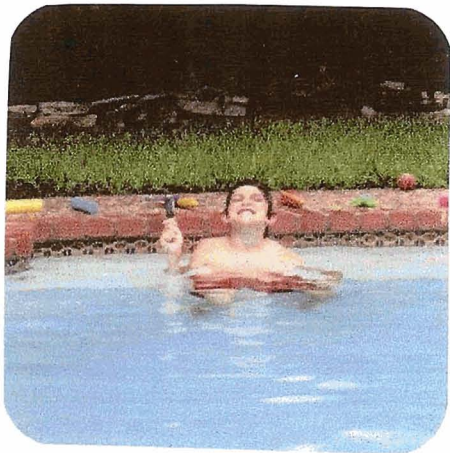
...Swinging. He loves to be pushed high or to twist and turn. And he likes to hold onto the ropes and hold himself up just like the other kids.

...HIS FRIENDS!! What a great group of kids.



(Trevor's 6<sup>th</sup> birthday party at McDonald's.)





# Christopher's Favorites

by Christopher

*"My favorite place to go on vacation is to New York because I gotta see Granny & Bear. I like to go camping with mom & dad & Rachel. My favorite thing to do at home is to hammer some nails.*

*My favorite animal is A Southern White Rhino. My favorite movie is The Nightmare Before Christmas. My 2 favorite Dr. Seuss books are I can read with my eyes shut and Marvin K. Mooney will you please go now. My favorite song is Pink Elephants On Parade from A video called Dumbo.*

*My favorite color is Red. My favorite number is the number 7. My favorite Holiday is Halloween, My favorite firetruck is A pumper truck.*

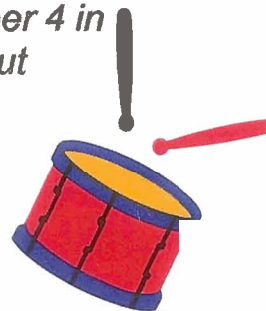
*My favorite thing to do is at recess.*



*I like to be a Firefighter when I grow up."*

## His favorites by Mom

*Christopher loves to perform – he takes drum classes at The River, but loves singing and acting out in front of his friends. He loves all instruments, knows a lot about various dinosaurs, and fire trucks. He loves Fantasia (the original) and Fantasia 2000, besides his favorite movie listed above. He has a great ear and can remember songs – he attempts to play them on the keyboard. He says that his favorite number is 7, but keep number 4 in the back of your head. He can be quite obsessive-compulsive about certain things. Christopher is happiest when he can move.*







### Try To Remember:

- Use his Alphasmart for any/all writing activities. There should be a printer in Language Arts classroom for his use. He knows how to print things. Remind him to put name/date at top of page.
- He cannot draw ...create alternate activities for drawing. He loves to paint, cut, and paste. Cutting can be tedious as he is very particular.
- Give him extra time to process a question and come up with an response. Specific questions rather than open ended questions are easier to answer. Autism spectrum disorders are "neurological", brain processing disorders.
- If the schedule is going to change, please give Special Education staff and Bob 24 hours notice, at a minimum, so that everyone is prepared.
- Try to use peers to support Bob while fostering friendships.
- Do not use drills, vacuums, or blenders in the classroom. Any machinery that might make a similar sound will scare him, or "hurt his ears".
- He can be obsessive compulsive with some things – blowing chalk dust off the chalk tray, having people throw their Kleenex away immediately after use, scraping scuff marks off the floor. He cannot stop himself very easily in these activities – have patience when trying to get him to quit. Write down the rules.

Sometimes the number 4 and the color red can be "sticking" points. If you put him on a team, put him on Team number 4 or the Red team to avoid tantrums/whining.



# Zebra Cakes



## Zak Eats!

We are very excited that Zak eats. This has been our goal since birth! Most mornings he reliably eats a nutra bar sometimes oatmeal and now Zak almost always eats a sandwich for lunch. We are elated! Because of the possibility of him aspirating and the fact that he just begun to learn to eat these are the precautions and concerns we have during lunch hour and snack time. We want Zak to eat solids to have better weight gain, increased nutrition and better bowel movements.

- Zak **CAN NOT** eat ice cream, popsicle, frozen yogurt, jello or any foods that melts in his mouth and turns into liquid. Pudding is a good substitute and chocolate is Zak's favorite. Candy is not good for Zak. It creates more saliva that is full of sugar that could possibly aspirate into his lungs.
- Sometimes Zak will try or want to drink water while he has food in his mouth. He **cannot** drink with anything in his mouth. He should swallow and clear his mouth prior to drinking to, again, avoid risk of aspiration.
- Zak is easily distracted and has to be reminded to continue eating. He does not have strong jaw muscles and tires easily and needs to rest to regain strength. To encourage him, though, it helps to remind him how many bites he has left, e.g., " Zak, you have 4 bites left". His last bite always goes the quickest (but you can't keep telling him it's his last bite, he doesn't go for that anymore). He also has to be reminded that he cannot eat and talk at the same time. Recently he has lost his bottom two teeth and he seems to be pushing the food through his empty space or trying to hold the food in his mouth with his fingers. It's getting a little bit messier and a constant reminder to move the food to one side.
- Zak can drink water, tea or diet soft drinks but **NOTHING WITH SUGAR**. It is better for him to drink with a straw in order for him not to tilt his head back and misdirect the liquid.