

LeapFrog Abilities 'Fair Go for Kids' initiative

LeapFrog Abilities 'Fair Go For Kids initiative' aims to help kids 'leapfrog' over waiting lists to get them the medical treatment, equipment or therapy they need in the hope of bringing more normality and opportunity into their lives. Here are three short stories about how the program has helped so far...

One year old Keira had a rare brain condition and developmental delay which effected her hearing. She required ear surgery to prevent her from tilting her head to one side, but faced a 20 month waiting period to have the operation. Through the Fair Go For Kids initiative, Keira's family received the financial support they needed to cut this waiting time down to just 3 weeks ! She has now had this operation which as improved her balance, ability to hear, future speech development and her self confidence. Keira will now be in a better position to reach important developmental milestones and live a better quality of life.

Young Lachie is a four year old boy living with autism, epilepsy, sleep apnea and developmental delay. A little while back he developed an abscess on a tooth. He also had several holes that required filling. Due to his disabilities, Lachie needed a general anesthetic rather than a standard visit to the dentist. The public waiting list for such a procedure is one year. One year of pain, discomfort and needless disruption to his already challenging life. To reduce the waiting time, and ease Lachie's pain, his mum was going to try and take out a personal loan to pay for the procedure in a private hospital. Fair Go For Kids heard about Lachie's plight and organized financial assistance for the operation. Lachie was treated within weeks and is now pain free.

Samuel is a delightful little boy with a cheeky smile. At the tender age of two and a half, Samuel has already had to endure major surgery as a result of cardiac and renal issues, including two operations on his heart. This has caused significant delays in Samuel's development and gross motor skills as well as leaving Samuel with little stamina and an inability for his upper body to take his own weight. His physiotherapist suggested that a series of swimming lessons would help to improve his cardiovascular system and strengthen his upper body. Fair Go For Kids provided financial support to pay for three months of sessions at The Justin Norris Swim Academy. Three months on and the improvements are obvious, According to Samuel's mum "Samuel no longer looks like al little baby. You can see the little muscles developing in his shoulders which is helping to improve his upper body strength. He loves the water and is having lots of fun!"