

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT ME TO SUPPORT SPRINGBOARD OPPORTUNITY GROUP

As some of you will know, my youngest daughter, Grace, was born in 2012. Grace was born with a cleft lip and palate and has hearing impairment and balance problems.



When she was two, we were faced with the reality that her development was a long way behind that of her peers. Her mainstream nursery didn't know how to support her at a time when she should have been moving up from the baby room, but she couldn't yet walk and could only say a few words. We didn't know where to go for support, until our Health Visitor mentioned that Springboard Opportunity Group may be able to help.

Springboard Opportunity Group is a charity based in Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare, supporting children in North Somerset with all kinds of additional needs. Springboard offer play sessions in their three settings, like other pre-schools, but in smaller groups with targeted exercises to stimulate and develop the children. The staff and volunteers are hugely experienced in dealing with all types of disability. They also offer specialist support workers who can assist children in their mainstream setting, to ensure that children are able to fully participate in all activities.

Since January 2015, Grace has attended Springboard two mornings a week and has gone to mainstream nursery with the support of Jacky, her amazing Springboard Support Worker.

She will be going off to mainstream school in September a confident, well developed child, primarily down to the work that Springboard have done.

I have volunteered to help Springboard as much as possible by becoming a Trustee, and more recently Chair of the Board of Trustees, as I passionately believe that every child deserves the same chance that Grace has had – **every child should have the opportunity to reach their potential, whatever that is.**

Springboard is partly funded by North Somerset Council, but a huge amount of the income needed to keep running has to be generated from fundraising and grants. Funding cuts have resulted in a £34,000 pa fall in income in the 2015/16 year, and more are anticipated, therefore a major fundraising initiative is currently underway.

A group of my family and friends have therefore decided that on May 7th we will run the Bristol 10k to raise funds for Springboard. Now, I am not a runner and never have been, and finding time to train in between running a business, caring for two small children and meetings at Springboard, alongside Mike's commitments to his Paramedic science degree has been a challenge!! I will definitely not be the fastest on May 7th, but I will definitely finish!

If you are able to support me, I would be immensely grateful and I attach a link to our JustGiving site. I also attach a link to the Springboard website which contains lots of information about the charity.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bristol10kforspringboard>

<https://www.springboardweb.org.uk/>

Thank you for your support.

Louise