



Tristan's Story

I wish to play outside with my sisters

Tristan, 7

nervous system disorder

At four months old, Tristan began having seizures. Doctors discovered that he had a brain malformation called Polymicrogyria, which can affect all parts of the brain. The perisylvian region of the brain is responsible for oral-motor function, speech, swallowing, and breathing. As a result of his diagnosis, Tristan is g-tube fed, unable to verbally communicate, and diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a result of this complex brain condition. Tristan has undergone serial casting of his feet, tendon releases, double hip surgery to correct hip dysplasia, a tonsillectomy and an adenoidectomy, all to help improve his comfort and quality of life. His medical team was able to treat Tristan's seizures at a young age, allowing him to be seizure free as of right now. Despite all that he's been through, Tristan is one of the happiest kids you'll ever meet. He always has a smile on his face and is up for the next adventure.

At seven years old, Tristan is a happy child who thrives off feeling included and spending time playing on his family's acreage of grass and hills with his sisters. Keeping up with his sisters can be challenging sometimes, leading to his wish to play outside with his sisters. Tristan's dreams of exploring his family's farm, speeding down their long driveway, and playing in the field with the cows alongside his sisters came true when his most heartfelt wish was granted through a unique accessibility device. This was a game changer for Tristan, allowing him to explore the outdoors of his family farm with his sisters by his side. He can drive it anywhere on his family's farm even through mud without getting stuck. "Tristan loved seeing his [accessibility device] for the first time, he thought it was the coolest thing ever." Heidi shared. "It's granted him his own independence that none of us thought would be possible." Tristan can't wait for the winter months when he can drive around and play in the snow with his sisters.