

Highlighting the Patterson Family Georgia Hands & Voices



Names of family members and a brief description of their “place” in the family.

Dad: **Matt**, owns a commercial roofing company, loves to golf and is very handy! Mom: **Terri** is the Co-Director of Georgia H & V, loves to read and play around with photo editing. Molly: As the 11 yr. old, she is the big sister, plays music (guitar and clarinet), and loves animals and hanging out with her friends. Riley: He is the younger brother at 9 years of age, loves reading and drawing, roller coasters, and anything that moves fast, bouncy or goes really high.

Which family member(s) has a hearing loss? Describe your family member's hearing loss (i.e.: cause of the hearing loss, amplification system used, educational setting, methodology). Riley has a sensorineural bi-lateral severe to profound hearing loss. He received his first Cochlear Implant at 13 months of age, after wearing hearing aids for the previous 10 months. Georgia PINES was a wonderful program for us, providing us with great activities, support and feedback during Riley's first 3 years of life. Riley had Auditory-Verbal Therapy once a week from 6 months of age, up until age 4. We also tried to enrich his learning experiences through our everyday activities. He attended one of the D/HH pre-school programs in Cobb County for 2 years, graduating out of therapy and into mainstream Kindergarten. He does not use any amplification devices and does not receive any special services. He received his 2nd Cochlear Implant in September of 2007 and is now a bilateral CI user. He enjoys having both implants and can function very well with just his new one if necessary now, after receiving more therapy post-surgery.

Identify your family's residence, school system, school. We live in Acworth, Cobb County and Riley attends Pickett's Mill Elementary.

Describe your child's educational experience. Riley (and us) loved his pre-school experience, especially since we were torn when we originally were making the decision. Once he entered into mainstream school we were prepared to search out services, but Riley has done very well in the typical classroom. In 1st grade he became eligible for Target class (Accelerated Learning) and continues to enjoy the challenge once a week. He is in the 4th grade as of the 2008-09 school year. As school becomes harder, louder, with less one on one, more everything, we are preparing ourselves so that we can make sure Riley gets what he needs.

What are the strengths of the individuals in your family?

The weaknesses? Riley is a stubborn, bright, expressive little guy...he is very active so between the sweat and his C.I. flying off his head...we worry, but he seems to be in control. Molly watches over her little brother, but doesn't let him get away with anything...usually forgetting that he is HOH and telling him to pay attention...loudly. Matt is the pillar of strength in our family, challenging us and encouraging us. Terri is the organizer, who tries to keep everyone on track without worrying about every little thing (yeah, good luck!)

How has Hands and Voices supported your family?

or

How do you hope Hands and Voices will support your

family? The more I learn about Hands & Voices, the more it has strengthened my desire to build the kind of support system in our state that I would have loved to have access to. To receive information on every aspect and every methodology and every resource that our state has to offer without all of the opinions and bias that often comes with it all...what a deal! Georgia has so much to offer in the way of knowledgeable professionals, dedicated people and services and great families to network with...the problem has been that it hasn't all been brought together. Together, we families can build this organization of support and education for each other and for all of the new families who will enter into our worked.