

Evan's Story

After an uneventful pregnancy Evan came into the world at 4:58pm on November 18, 2011, without breath or a detectable heartbeat.

It is believed his umbilical cord was pinched during the final ten minutes of delivery causing him to suffer from a lack of oxygen and blood flow to his brain. A phenomenal team of doctors and nurses at BC Women's Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia, performed [life saving measures](#) with [grace and confidence](#). We were warned that Evan may not awake from his treatments and, if he did, there was evidence to suggest the damage to his brain was significant.

Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE) and Neonatal Asphyxia are the medical terms for this condition and he was diagnosed with Grade 2, moderate severity. Evan's MRI showed moderate damage to a few areas, but the most relevant occurred in the basil ganglia. We have been told some pretty depressing things about the possible long-term outcomes based on these findings. According to a leading neurologist who specializes in neonatal asphyxia our son would "never learn to walk on his own."

We were devastated, however, after some time and reflection we came to realize this information wasn't all that valuable to us as Evan's parents. Even with fancy studies, complicated charts, and sample data, no one really understood what this meant for our boy. Even with a few bumps and bruises, his brain was an absolutely perfect, totally brilliant machine with [self-healing capabilities](#) beyond what anyone can predict. We believed with our whole heart and soul he would find [ways to overcome](#).

We remember the moment one of our favourite doctors looked us in the eyes and said, "We will remain [cautiously optimistic](#) until we have reason to do otherwise."

Please join us in *celebrating*
1825 mud-luscious;
puddle-wonderful days

We made a commitment to [stay positive](#) and to dig as deep as necessary to discover the courage to [believe in the possible](#). Despite the odds, Evan did open his eyes and started breathing on his own after a 72-hour whole body cooling therapy called Neonatal Therapeutic Hypothermia. He eventually started nursing on his own and ten months later he started crawling. Evan was 14 months old when he took his first steps.

This month we will [celebrate](#) Evan's fifth birthday at our home in Portland, Oregon. We are overjoyed to share that he continues to meet every milestone in his path.

With each passing day we see his [amazing potential](#) more clearly. He is a delightful boy who lights up the world with his infectious smile. Over the past five years Evan has traveled to seven countries and more than 30 cities. We are truly blessed. He is currently attending the pre-kindergarten program at the Oregon Episcopal School where he is [thriving](#). We would like to take this moment to send our love and

best wishes
from our family to yours



www.evanneden.com

