

# BLUE BIRD SUCCESS STORY

Elijah, 5 years, 7 months, Hypotonic Cerebral Palsy

Elijah is a wonderful 5 year old boy enrolled in the program initially in June of 2019 at age 3 with a diagnosis of Disorders of Psychological Development. Elijah's parents were interested in finding a program that would support Elijah to make developmental gains and prepare for mainstream educational settings. Elijah enjoys spending time with his friends and therapists at Blue Bird and is always ready to greet everyone with a smile!

## INITIAL EVALUATION

- Significant language and motor delays
- Non-ambulatory
- Decreased fine and gross motor skills
- Difficulty processing sensory input and modulating it accordingly
- Language delays: communicating using gestures, signs, few words, and not yet pairing two words together

## INITIAL GOALS

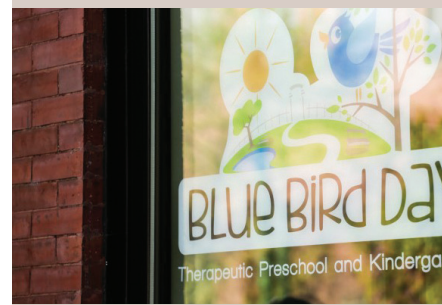
- Self Care: Independence in personal care routines such as toileting and toothbrushing
- Mobility: Increasing Elijah's independence to navigate the external world
- Communication: increase communication skills

## PROGRESS NOTES OR OUTCOMES

- Improved safety awareness
- Improved mobility throughout environment
- Improved receptive and expressive language skills
- Increased interactions and engagement with peers and therapists
- Ability to label and express simple emotions appropriately
- Increased volition to promote skills development and mastery

## DISCIPLINES & SERVICES OFFERED

- Developmental Therapy
- Social Work
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Therapy



### Blue Bird Day

Therapeutic Day Program with locations in West Loop, Northcenter and Wheaton, Illinois

Contact us at [info@bluebirddayprogram.com](mailto:info@bluebirddayprogram.com)

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**BLUEBIRDDAYPROGRAM.COM**

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Blue Bird Day's (BBD) mission is to champion children to reach their full potential by providing individualized therapeutic care in the most natural setting. BBD is designed to foster socialization, sensory regulation and pre-academic learning in children ages 2 - 7 years in therapeutic rotations that simulate a preschool and kindergarten setting. We believe in regular assessment with both therapists and families, incorporating multi-disciplinary data to review and evaluate current program effectiveness and appropriateness of treatment goals and supports. Below is a summary of Elijah's progress from initial evaluation to two-years of treatment.



## A NOTE FROM A THERAPIST

"I have been working with Elijah for several months and he has continued to surprise with his progress. He is continually progressing in his functional ability and has continued to make great strides at Blue Bird Day. When he was enrolled in Blue Bird in June of 2019 at age 3, he was not yet walking independently, using crawling and cruising as his main way to navigate his environment. Now he is able to walk independently using his forearm crutches to confidently navigate his environment at Blue Bird Day! He has increased his independence and confidence in many different ways whether it is engaging and participating with a peer, participating in self care routines, or constantly adapting to changes throughout his day. Elijah has been such a joy to work with and he is always ready to greet peers and therapists in the hallway. Seeing Elijah's smiling face in the hallway is always a highlight of my day at Blue Bird!"

CATEGORY	INITIAL EVALUATION	AFTER 2 YEARS
<b>Social Skills</b>	Elijah demonstrated delays in social emotional development. He had an intrinsic motivation to interact with others, but was more successful with adults/older peers. He was observed to engage in eye contact with play partners at the time however had difficulty engaging with peers his age.	Elijah presented with motivation to interact and engage with others in simple conversational phrases. He was able to independently greet adults and peers. Elijah's emotional regulation is a strength for him as he demonstrates appropriate emotional reactions to specific situations and stimuli.
<b>Practical Life Skills</b>	Elijah demonstrated the ability to drink from an open cup, participate with simple household tasks, and wash hands and face with assistance. He was inconsistent with communicating when he needed to be changed.	Elijah was able to stay seated during mealtimes and finger feed self or request to be fed, verbalize some awareness of bowel/bladder movements, participate in dressing routines by elevating arms/legs and threading them with setup, and demonstrating volition to engage in these tasks.
<b>Communication</b>	Elijah was able to follow one step safety commands but had difficulty responding to preferential yes/no questions and was not able to follow multistep directions. Elijah communicated using gestures, sign, and a few verbal words/word approximations and was not yet verbally pairing two words together.	Elijah presented as a verbal communicator who will typically formulate 3-4+ word utterances independently, was able to use at least 50 different words in spontaneous speech, respond what he is doing, ask "what and where" questions, use regular plurals correctly, and demonstrated strength in following 1-2 step rote and less familiar commands.
CATEGORY	INITIAL (DAYC-2) % DELAY	(DAYC-2) % DELAY AFTER 2 YEARS

**Cognition**

60.5%

46%

**Physical Development**

78%

71%

**Receptive Language**

68%

36%

**Expressive Language**

57%

44%