

Dear Families,

Nothing could have prepared us for having a child with special needs. The first years after Emily was born, we simply tried to make it through each day by navigating doctor's appointments, therapies, and learning about the world of adaptive equipment. It was overwhelming and isolating.



Despite this, we were, and continue to be, in awe of the incredible community that surrounds our family. Thanks to this community of therapists, early education teachers, and other families, we found our way to the BOOST program for Em's kindergarten year.



We knew from the very first school tour with the amazing director and teacher, Saskia Kramer, that we had found the right path for Em. One that would be filled with individuals who would see her as an individual, work to her strengths, and celebrate her wins.

While the transition to kindergarten was a tremendous shift for us as parents and full-time caregivers, we felt at peace as we waved goodbye to Em as she rode off to her first day of school with the always warm and welcoming BOOST staff.

Em's first months with the BOOST program have continued to impress us and confirm that she is in the right place. The staff who pick her up and drop her off each day have gotten to know and adore her excited squeals, her mischievous ways, and her nonverbal requests for a different song on the radio. In the classroom, Saskia moves to Em's level, speaks to her directly, and is intuitive with her needs, even though she is nonverbal. Pictures and videos that are occasionally shared with us show

how excited the BOOST team of therapists, aids, and teachers are when Em makes the smallest of achievements.

In addition to all of this, Saskia and the rest of the team take the time to collaborate with us, involve us in the development of her individualized program, and stay curious about how we can all best meet Em's needs.

We are so thankful to be part of the BOOST family and are excited for Em to be a part of the BOOST community for years to come.

With gratitude,

The McKeany's ~ Emily, Allison, Lyle, & Sara

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