

Meet Ce'Leah

Member Story

Finding Her Voice, One Word at a Time

Ce'Leah's days look like what you would expect for a five-year-old. She loves Sesame Street and Elmo, enjoys swimming and trips to the beach, and loves trying new foods. Her days are full of school, therapy, and time to just be a kid. Getting here took persistence.

Early on, Ce'Leah's mom noticed signs that she might need additional support. But finding services for a child under age five was not easy. At age 3, Ce'Leah was diagnosed with Level 3 autism. This means she needs substantial daily support. She also communicates nonverbally. It took time to connect the right supports. That began to change once Ce'Leah entered school and connected with early intervention services. From there, her support system grew, eventually leading to Trillium and a care team that helped bring everything together.

One of the biggest breakthroughs has been communication. With the help of speech therapy, Ce'Leah now uses an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device to express herself. If she cannot find the right word, she can turn to her device. If she hears something new, she practices it repeatedly until it sticks. Lately, she's been working on a big one: "octopus."

She's learning to make her voice heard in more ways than one. Through Community Living and Supports, Ce'Leah has consistent guidance with daily routines, helping her build independence and confidence in new environments. Respite services also provide space for Ce'Leah's mom to recharge and continue working toward her own goals, including her education. Her care manager even helped her find a specialist when Ce'Leah was struggling with moderate-to-persistent asthma.

Together, these supports are creating something bigger. Right now, that looks like clearer communication, growing independence, and confidence in everyday moments. Over time, it becomes a foundation that supports lifelong health and fulfillment.

For Ce'Leah, success is not defined by a single milestone. It's about having the tools to navigate her world, connect with others, and keep learning. One word at a time, she's doing just that.



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We love to see members reaching their fullest potential. If you have someone who has a positive story to share (and their permission to do so!), please let us know! You can send any pictures and stories to Info@TrilliumNC.org.

Member and Recipient Services
1-877-685-2415

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