

# Helping Children Live Life to The Fullest

Meeting their needs –  
one size doesn't fit all

**Vikram has quadriplegic cerebral palsy. Although he can't speak or use his arms or legs, his communication device and customized power chair give him the mobility and voice he needs.**

Children come in many sizes and shapes, with diverse needs and challenges. To provide outstanding care, many need specialized or customized equipment designed to fit and meet individual needs. The right equipment helps patients and clients get better, grow stronger, and participate fully in their communities.

## Equipment Resources

Equipment Resources at Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC) provides children and youth with a wide variety of specialized equipment including: walkers, standing frames, wheelchairs, baby joggers, adaptive spoons and beds, weighted blankets and vests, therapy balls, bath seats, adapted toys, adapted sports equipment and much more. Families can try out equipment before buying it for their children or they can borrow equipment during a transition period. Specialized equipment helps children with disabilities to move comfortably, take



Vikram, age 13

*"A person's a person,  
no matter how small."*

*Dr. Seuss*

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part in day to day activities, participate in sports and recreation, and live full and active lives. As one family member expressed it; "Equipment Resources at TVCC has been a blessing to us. We had no idea of the items available to help children with disabilities."

### Smart Intravenous (IV) Pumps

When children receive medications intravenously it can be faster and in higher concentrations than through other methods. And because children are small and light, accurate dosing is critical. Smart IV pumps use advanced technology to ensure accurate, safe and secure administration of medications. At any one time each child may need as many as 3 or 4 Smart IV Pumps.

### Adapted Fitness Centre

The Adapted Fitness Centre is a unique facility that supports the promotion of healthy lifestyle choices and active living, for clients with disabilities and their families. Through the Adapted Fitness Centre, children and youth with disabilities are given an opportunity to explore fitness participation and build confidence under the guidance of a trained therapist. In addition to providing a facility for therapists to work on individual client treatments, the centre provides the opportunity to safely promote the physical fitness and healthy living of youth with disabilities in our community.

### Gait Lab

At TVCC, there is a unique place called the Motion Analysis and Gait Laboratory (Gait Lab). The 3-dimensional motion analysis technology used in the Gait Lab captures movements, muscle activity and forces that our eyes and 2-dimensional video analysis cannot see. The Gait Lab is used to measure movement patterns in children with complex conditions involving muscles, joints, nerves and bones. Information from motion analysis together with imaging scans, the patient's medical history and the results of other evaluations, all help a child's care team recommend the best treatment options for children to reach their maximum potential. Treatment may include surgery, therapy, or bracing. Children's walking patterns continue to be measured over time and the need for this program is growing every year.

### Ongoing Equipment Needs

Across the Children's Family we need to replace or purchase new technologies and equipment constantly to deliver the best possible care and conduct innovative research. Although some provincial funding is available for equipment, contributions from generous donors help support progress and keep us at the forefront of clinical care.

When you contribute to Children's Health Foundation, you're helping children be children, whether they're undergoing treatment for cancer, living with a disability, or visiting the hospital for day surgery. By supporting any one of the many programs available at Children's, you're giving a warm hug and an encouraging smile to children facing adult-sized challenges.



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