

SEATTLE CHILDREN'S
PLAYGARDEN
A Garden for Everyone

Luca's Story

My son, Luca has arthrogryposis. This means he was born with contractures in his arms and legs due to very low muscle tone. When we learned of the Playgarden we were elated to not only find a place that would accommodate Luca, but was created specifically for kids like him, to integrate with typical kids. The Playgarden has opened up a whole world for him, literally! He can play there in a way he has never played before. The teachers allow him to dig, create, interact with his peers, learn, and grow in a way that we believe is meaningful and exceptional.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Playgarden. Thank you for the gift of welcoming Luca into your school this year. For including him when other preschools would not. For believing in him. For affirming that he can do whatever he put his mind to, even though he has to do things his own way because his arms and legs work differently.

Thank you for empowering Luca as a leader. For seeing his strengths and helping him to act upon these strengths to find what he can do instead of what he can't. Thank you for giving him a chance to play, collect treasures, imagine, garden, make friends, and learn to cook like other kids can do effortlessly. Thank you for opening up the outdoor world and giving him the confidence that he too challenge himself and find freedom outside. Thank you that Luca has gotten to learn through experience, laughter, singing, cooperation, and independence. Thank you for helping us as parents to let go and give Luca the chance to get dirty, take risks and be included in an incredible community. Thank for giving him a truly magical year at the Playgarden, with an impact of a lifetime.

I want to thank the donors that have made this year possible for Luca. The scholarship Luca received has allowed him to make leaps and bounds in his physical development and boosted his confidence in himself and how he interacts with the world around him. I cannot thank the providers of these funds, or the vision and impact of what the Playgarden has done for Luca and in our families lives!

I remember the first time I dropped Luca off at the Playgarden. I was nervous and worried to leave him wondering if he would fall or be ok. I will never forget picking Luca up after the morning. He was sitting in a wheel barrow laughing with mud all over his face having time of his life. I knew from that moment that he was going to have a fantastic year!

