

MEET ELOISE!

A beloved member of The Arc family, Eloise is a charmer who loves to be a part of the world around her. She adores Peppa Pig, the sound of whistles and her little brother, Joey. Her story is one of both struggle and strength.

SHE CAME HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL AND HER FAMILY THOUGHT ALL WAS WELL

Born in Los Angeles, Eloise's birth story was joyful and routine. Her parents left the hospital with what appeared to be a healthy baby, but after a few weeks, Melissa (Eloise's mom) grew concerned that Eloise's constant crying might be a sign something was wrong. Medical testing started after other milestones were not being met, but doctors had no answers.

SEARCHING FOR A DIAGNOSIS

Eloise and her family made many moves so they could lean on the support of family as they walked the difficult path of discovering Eloise's level of need. After years of testing, Eloise was eventually diagnosed with Microcephaly and Failure to Thrive, but even that analysis did not represent the extent of Eloise's challenges. Melissa explains that they just embrace the fact that Eloise is profoundly disabled and is a "total-care kid." They love and care for her through all of her successes and challenges.

THE ARC IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF ELOISE'S SUCCESS

Melissa says, ***"Without the services provided by The Arc, I couldn't work a full time job and be a contributing member of the community. But I am able to have a job that I love that brings me great personal satisfaction. My life has an equal mix of being a Mom, caregiver, worker and just myself and The Arc plays an important role in maintaining that balance."***

As with all our participant families, The Arc provides Melissa with a network of personal connections for peer support, access to respite and daycare services, as well as in-home care so she can spend focused time with Eloise's brother, Joey, and have a few moments of much-needed time for herself. Melissa says she appreciates the personal check-ins from Arc staff and says that The Arc is a reliable, knowledgeable, and vital resource to help her and her family navigate the life of loving and caring for someone with a profound disability.

The Arc may help Eloise, but Eloise also brings so much to The Arc and all who interact with her. Even though she's non-verbal, she communicates freely with those around her through body language, facial expressions, and verbal reactions. She has a network of friends and staff who truly love her!

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING ELOISE AND OUR ENTIRE ARC FAMILY

The supports and services The Arc provides to children like Eloise and parents like Melissa inspire hope, support the local economy, and provide stability. We are here to help them navigate life's ups and downs and twists and turns from birth through all stages of life. Your tax-deductible donation will stay right here with The Arc of East Central Iowa, helping us serve more participants like Eloise and the people who care for them.

Thank you for making a difference in our participants' lives. We're so glad you're part of the Arc family!

