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World Down Syndrome Day – 21 March 2015
March 20, 2015



Everything about Nicholas, is cause for celebration. He's taught us to embrace every moment and just live life to the fullest. Nothing is done by half measures. If a stranger walks past you, you greet them with a huge smile. If music is playing, you get up and dance. By starting my day with an enormous squeeze that almost knocks me over, all is right in the world. I will never stop feeling utterly blessed to be the mom of this incredible little ball of energy.

One of the most exciting milestones in a child's life (and their parents) is taking that first step. Nicholas had a few attempts during his physiotherapy sessions, but was always aided by something propping him up to get started. He kept us in suspense right up until the morning of his second birthday, where he stood up all on his own, danced for a few seconds and then walked the length of the room! We were so proud. Nicholas hasn't looked back since and there's a reason we've likened him to a mini tornado.

Down Syndrome definitely comes with its own stereotypes. 'They are happy, affectionate children who love music'. Nicholas however, is not doing much to dispute that! In the evenings just before bedtime, I literally have to peel him off his brothers, as he alternates giving them their hugs and kisses.

Nicholas is such a friendly character and everyone who comes into contact with him, is greeted with a smile and a wave. If you're really lucky, you'll be treated to a tickle too. It's just amazing to see Nicholas interacting with people and having the ability to brighten someone's day. For Halloween last

year in our local park, he wore his brother's hand-me-down skeleton pyjamas and won the judges over with his charm and enthusiasm. When prize-giving came along, Nicholas took the award for best dressed young boy.

Nicholas started at Future Steps Preschool in January and has absolutely loved it so far. Granted there were a few tears in the beginning, but by the second week, he was waving me off and making his way to the sandpit. In the mornings, when it's time to leave home, he picks up his school bag and heads for the front door, excited to find out what the day has in store.

One of Nicholas's greatest passions, has to be dancing. He is besotted with music and when a song comes on, there is great urgency to show us his moves. It can't be just any song though. He is very particular about what he likes and has perfected some incredible actions to various beats. When we're in the car, there is a lot of moaning coming from the back when he doesn't approve of what is playing at the time. My husband must just try listening to cricket commentary on the radio and we have a complete meltdown! So yes, the terrible twos are definitely in play and Nicholas most certainly knows how to manipulate a situation to his advantage. Once he gets his way (and his requested song), it's all smiles again.

Discussing Nicholas would not be complete without mentioning that big purple dinosaur. I really wasn't a huge fan while my other two boys were growing up (and thankfully neither were they!), but Barney has definitely found a special place in Nicholas's heart. Seeing that Barney gives me about twenty minutes of peace while I try and get something done, no longer has he just won Nicholas over. It's the only time that he'll sit transfixed and it's so sweet to watch him mimicking the actions and singing along to the songs. I'm so grateful in fact, that I'm insisting Nicholas have a Barney themed party to celebrate his third birthday in June!

Everything about Nicholas, is cause for celebration!

