



At 9 months old, our beautiful Dylan was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy (CP). The words that were spoken by the neurologist still echo in my head, “I cannot say if Dylan will ever walk or talk.” When Dylan was 18 months old, she began speech therapy, and she began walking at 23 months. While we’ve always celebrated the wins, it was apparent Dylan’s speech delay was fairly significant. As time went on, she would barely mutter two-word sentences; she could barely pronounce certain letter sounds. Frustrations occurred multiple times each day as we had a difficult time understanding her. We would guess and be repeatedly incorrect to the point she would get angry and give up. This was heartbreaking as we knew in our hearts; Dylan cognitively knew what she was saying – just her body wouldn’t allow her to say it clearly.

When Dylan turned four, we were disappointed to be put on a waiting list at Inspiration Ranch. However, we realized the program must be fabulous as waiting lists typically don’t exist for mediocre programs. The bond between Dylan and Frito was instantaneous. Dylan hopped on Frito as if she’d been riding him her whole life. The confidence she exuded immediately was breathtaking. I knew in those first few moments Inspiration Ranch was a blessing to our family. Within two months of riding Frito, Dylan’s speech clarity improved immensely; she began talking in 5 and 6-word sentences; frustration episodes were drastically reduced; strangers could understand her; she began doing “normal” activities with friends such as hopscotch and monkey bars; not to mention she has an overwhelming amount of confidence and isn’t afraid to try anything.

Our days are now filled with precious, priceless conversations. Dylan can now say, “I love you” instead of tapping her heart/chest.

