

President's Message

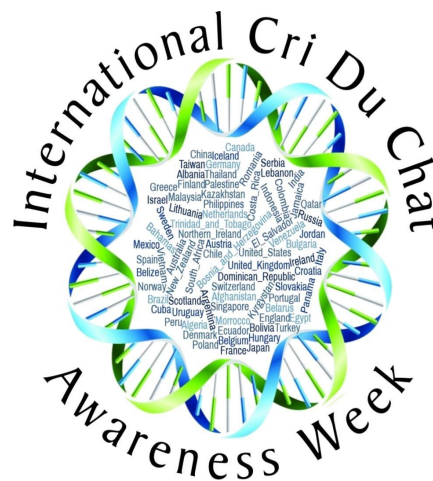
Nick Wallace

Have any of you ever experienced a chance meeting? You see people posting photos of celebrities that they have met in a restaurant, airport, or various other chance locations. Sometimes you will see a post about a person running into a friend that they had not seen in quite some time. I know that we used to have a running joke that my parents and I could not go on vacation without running into someone we knew even when we were several states away from Ohio.

Well, recently we had a chance meeting. Angie, Allie, Nate, Laney, and I were out at a mall that is about an hour away from our home. Angie went into a store in the mall to look for something for Allie, when one of the store employees came to see if she could assist Angie with her search. After talking for a few minutes it was realized that she also had a child with Cri du Chat. She had only connected with one other person who had a child with Cri du Chat. She came out of the store to visit with Allie and the rest of our family and we quickly connected her to our Facebook group.

I know most of you reading this are probably wanting me to get to the point ... here you go. The point of this article is to stress that participation in the upcoming international awareness week is so very important. In the case of our chance meeting, the individual had not been linked up with the 5p- Society or the Facebook group. When I became Facebook friends with this person, they only had one other Facebook friend that was tied to the Cri du Chat world. So, for around 6 years this person had been living a life without the support of the 5p- community.

So, I encourage you to take part in the Virtual 5K, post educational posts on social media, pass out some fliers to your local hospital, wear your striped socks and your 5p- gear. The only way to stop people from being given antiquated information and for families to not be left unconnected is for us to make our voices heard. Please join us in making this the biggest International Cri du Chat Awareness Week possible. You never know ... you may have a chance meeting of your own and have the opportunity to be a light to someone else.



Meet C5

The Mascot of the International
Cri du Chat Awareness Week
May 1-10, 2019



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2019 5p– Conference in Portland *Update*

The Host Families for the 2019 Conference are: Rob & Becky Owens, Roger & Angela Borek, Tim & Dawn Turner, Ron & Paula Johnson & Bill & Christy Blount. They are working hard to bring you a fantastic conference. The conference brochure has gone out and is also posted on our website at <https://fivepminus.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Conference-brochure-and-registration-form.pdf>.

For those of you who have never attended a conference, it is a place like no other. A vacation where you belong. Children and adults with 5p– Syndrome at all different levels of development. A wealth of information from speakers (many of which are either parents of a child with the syndrome, or work with children with the syndrome) and from parents ready and willing to answer questions, share techniques and provide knowledge. Please be prepared to attend Thursday evening's New Family Orientation Session with 5p– Society Founder, Kent Nicholls. Session will begin at 7:00 PM.



Our first ever Mom's breakout support session will be given and will be facilitated by Mom and Life Coach, Natalia Rodriguez. There will also be a Dad's support session.

Kids Club (aka Child Care) will be staffed and monitored by family, friends and professionals for your children (both with 5p– and siblings) so you can fully participate and enjoy the wide range of speakers. Going techy and digital, we will have a check in/check out app available for you called KidCheck. More info given a few weeks prior to the conference.

Also, going techy, we are planning to have our Conference App, full of information that you can access. You can see who's coming, conference hotel map, schedule, speaker's notes, announcements and even the annual raffle will be announced.

There are still plenty of rooms at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Make your hotel reservation by calling (503) 281-6111. Room rates start at \$169 (only single queens) to \$179 per night—Kids under 18 are free. Cutoff to get these great prices is June 25th. Don't delay, get your rooms today! One of the coolest things about this hotel is that you can take the MAX light rail from the airport to the hotel and it drops you off right at the hotel. The light rail also goes into Downtown Portland.

5p– Society members can register to attend the conference online at:

Single registrant: <https://5psociety.regfox.com/2019-5p-annual-conference—member-individual-registration>

Family registration: <https://5psociety.regfox.com/2019-5p-annual-conference-member-registration>

We also have non-member registrations available. Please email director@fivepminus.org and ask for the link.

Make sure you register prior to July 1st to get the discounted registration fee.

The 5p– Society will be offering five (5) scholarships to families who are wanting to come to the conference, but perhaps cannot cover the cost of the registration and hotel fee (transportation is not included). The deadline to apply is fast approaching (April 30). To apply, please go to: <https://goo.gl/forms/EguDmlK76Q9Q29rl2>.

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2019 Conference Update . . . *continued*

Speaker lineup: Kent Nicholls, Dennis Campbell, PhD, AmySue Reilly, PhD, Mary Anne Elhert, Patrick Tomblin, Dréa Peterson, MD, Leisha Vogl, MS, CCCLP, Barbara Kay Roberts, Sherry Manion, Natalia Rodriguez and Nick Wallace.

We have the following topics:

- Love and Logic Institute Guilt Free Parenting
- Cri du Chat 101
- Effective Positive Behavior Modification
- ABLÉ Act
- Charting the Journey (Planning for the Future)
- Speech Therapy: Different Approaches for Various Stages of Development
- Advocacy and Empowering Parents
- The Genetics of 5p– and How Doctors can Help
- Tools and Tips to Navigating the IEP
- New Family Orientation
- Father's Seminar
- Mother's Support Shop—Energy and Self Care
- Grandparent's Workshop
- Sibling Workshop

Awareness Week Activities

Who is ready for awareness week??? What are your plans? Hosting a 5k walk (or run) with family and friends? Wearing your Stripy Socks throughout the week, especially on May 5? Sharing your knowledge with fun activities at your child's school?

We cannot wait to hear what you have planned!!! We cannot wait to see your pictures!! PLEASE SHARE!!! SHARE, SHARE, SHARE—let's bombard social media with the Faces of 5p—!!

Share on our Facebook Fan Page: @CriDuChatSociety

Share on our Instagram Page: @5pminus

Share on our Twitter Feed: @5pminus

The Faces of 5p– Campaign had an overwhelming response. The pictures and bios are just about complete and will be ready to begin posting on May 1st. It's not too late to get your child or adult's picture and bio in to showcase! Contact Laura at director@fivepminus.org for more information.

For additional ideas and information, please visit our website at www.fivepminus.org. Click on News/Events. Scroll down to Awareness Week and click on it. Scroll through the page for ideas. There is a coloring sheet of C5 as well as a kids' document.

Thanks again to all the parents who were able to secure a Proclamation from their State Governors to declare May 5, Cri du Chat Syndrome Day!

WE LOVE OUR 5P– FAMILIES!! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO — THIS WEEK IS FOR ALL OF US TO CELEBRATE OUR LOVED ONES AND TEACH THE WORLD ABOUT 5P– SYNDROME!



The Benefits of “Dancing to the Music” *Elise Horecka*

The benefits of dance are nearly endless. As a sister of someone with Cri du Chat Syndrome, and dance teacher to people with a variety of special needs, I have seen first-hand how dance can better the lives of anyone who participates. I could write a book filled with the small and large victories I've seen my sister and students have as a result of dancing. I believe the numerous benefits boil down to the two main and intertwined aspects of dance: sport and art. Each has their individual positive effects, but dance manages to combine both to create the ultimate mental and physical work out.

Dance as a sport is the more limiting idea, because historically dance was thought to include only people of a certain body or ability type. However, dance can and should be for all people, no matter the limitations. Even those in wheelchairs can participate in dance classes by being moved around the room in the chair or with the help of an Upsee that their teacher can use with them. While both options have a different sort of engagement, they allow those dancers to be a part of the dance community. Famed Broadway choreographer, Agnes de Mille said, “You have to learn to dance in the body you have.” With this, she expelled the idea that only certain people should be dancers. We now know that dance is a great tool to explore and understand how our bodies move.

Dance classes can also help develop muscle tone and improve balance, stamina and coordination. They usually start with a warm up that includes a combination of cardio and stretching. Movements like jogging in place or jumping jacks engage both the mind and body, forcing them to actively work together and improving gross motor skills. Stretching helps prevent injuries in dancers and can limber up those with tight muscles, making everyday life more comfortable. The routine and repetitive nature of dance classes and the exercises in them is designed to slowly build the skills and strength needed for dance. I've watched my students with special needs learn to correct their own posture, and farther down the line, their balance because it's required in every part of dance. They've had to learn to engage the right muscles while standing and moving in different ways in class. As a result, their everyday lives have become easier because of this small exercise they've built on in each class. Doing this same process every week helps dancers get comfortable at the beginning of class because they know what to expect. It also helps them mentally focus and get prepared to stay that way for the length of the class. Attention spans have also been improved this way for some.

The other side of dance is art. People have been using dance to express themselves since the beginning of time. The combination of music and dance can bring out a person's imagination and personality unlike almost anything else. I rarely see the same level of creativity that I do in dance classes than when I play the game “Dance To The Music” with my students. In this game, I play a song and they have to show how it makes them feel with their movements and facial expressions. The simplicity of the game gives them the freedom to share their emotions and favorite dance moves. Martha Graham, a modern dance pioneer, once said, “Great dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion.” When we let people show their passion for dance, music, and the arts in general in a nonjudgmental way, they can freely share a side of themselves we wouldn't normally see. Eventually, they can also develop more confidence and self-esteem as they continue to be encouraged to share their imaginative side.



Dance can be a major benefit to anyone looking for an engaging exercise and artistic expression. For people with special needs, it can help them better develop aspects of their physical and mental well-being even more than others expect. As I've watched my sister grow, I've seen how she joyously responds to her favorite music by spinning and jumping around the room. She shows me how positively this type of movement can impact her life. As a teacher, I've had parents tell me how their kids have become more independent at home after starting dance, even as adults. I love seeing how dance can help my students better their lives, even with just one class a week. I'd recommend a dance class to anyone, with or without special needs.

Elise Horecka grew up in Nashville with her parents and 3 siblings, Anna, Peter, and Kari (who has Cri Du Chat Syndrome). She began her dance training at the age of 4 and taught her first class when she was 15. Right after graduating from Belmont University with a degree in Entertainment Studies and Theatre, she began working with Backlight Productions, a theater for adults with special needs. There, she choreographs their yearly shows, teaches dance classes and hosts their monthly dance parties. She continues to help expand their programs, as well as working with other youth theater and dance communities in the Nashville area.

As a mother of a 12-year-old girl with Cri-Du-Chat, it was always a challenge to find an after school class that would cater to her unique needs. My daughter is very social and thrives on learning from her peers, which makes her a perfect candidate for a group activity. Unfortunately, her physical abilities dictate a personal one-on-one training, which she quickly loses interest in.

Through an article in a parental magazine, I came to learn of Ballet for All Kids (BFAK) program, a unique non-profit dance studio, whose mission is to provide a classical ballet education to ALL children regardless of their abilities or disabilities.

The cooperative program was founded in 2008 by Bonnie Schlachte and thrives to make classical ballet and other dance styles accessible using ***The Schlachte Method*** - a certified curriculum developed to accommodate all learning styles, body types, and abilities.

The program, which serves both boys and girls alike, is currently available in Southern California (branches in Encino and Agoura Hills), and New York (branches in Manhattan, Long Island City and Gowanus). The studio offers dance classes in Ballet, Tap dancing, Hip Hop, Contemporary, and even Yoga.

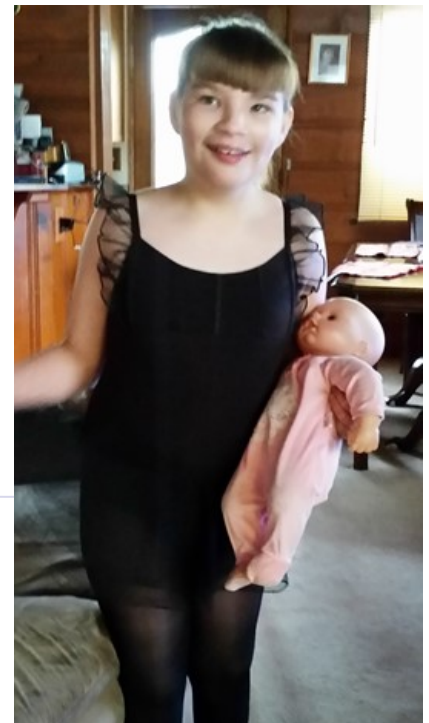
Unfortunately, many children cannot succeed in a traditional class setting and are thus excluded from the numerous benefits that dance classes offer. BFAK's integral approach offers a less restrictive environment paired with individualized attention and support in order to help every student succeed.

The first time I entered the studio, I was very skeptical this program would be beneficial for my daughter, who has a lot of wonderful traits, but graceful movement is not among them. With tiny feet on a fully-grown body, my daughter is not very stable and is prone to falling. However, as weeks turned into months and months to years, I learned doubt and skepticism have no room in BFAK and its founder and director, Bonnie Schlachte. As time went by I watched my daughter gain balance and discipline, learn ballet vocabulary and have lots of fun tap dancing.

Teamed with a dedicated staff and amazing volunteers, Ms. Schlachte takes the time to learn each kid's unique and special needs, and develops methods that cater to their strengths and weaknesses. For Ms. Schlachte, the skies are not the limit, because she sees no limits. Her method allows kids with any disability (physical, mental or emotional) to dance, whether they are fully mobile, use walking devices, and even if in wheelchairs.

When shortly after my daughter started taking lessons, Ms. Schlachte told me she will appear in the upcoming production of "The Nutcracker," I thought she might be setting a bar too high for my daughter. But a few months later, I watched with awe as the kids, my daughter among them, danced their hearts out on stage. One of the most touching success stories is that of a girl told she may not walk, let alone dance. True to her mission of Ballet for All Kids, Ms. Schlachte devised clever solutions that allowed the girl to dance on stage. Her solo brought tears to my eyes and the audience to their feet with applause.

To learn more on how Ballet for All Kids can assist and benefit your child Behaviorally, Socially, and Physically, or if you are interested in becoming certified in the The Schlachte Method, please visit the website at: www.balletforallkids.com. You can also contact Ms. Schlachte at info@balletforallkids.com or by calling 805-524-5503.



Cri du Chat Syndrome and Social Security Disability Benefits

If your child has Cri du Chat Syndrome he or she may qualify for Social Security Disability (SSD) benefits. Securing SSD benefits can be a lengthy process but is often a necessary lifeline for families affected by illness or disability.

This article will discuss the SSD benefits available to your child and will provide you with the information needed to begin the application process.

SSD Benefit Options

The Social Security Administration (SSA) oversees two distinct disability benefit programs: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income. As a parent of a child with Cri du Chat Syndrome, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will likely be best suited to your child's needs. Here's why:

In order to qualify for **SSDI**, a person must be disabled, have extensive employment history, and must have paid Social Security taxes throughout their career. Learn more about SSDI, [here](#).

SSI is not funded through payroll taxes and does not require a work history. SSI is intended for elderly and disabled people with limited income. In most cases, those who qualify for SSI are also automatically awarded Medicaid coverage. Since individuals with Cri du Chat Syndrome are disabled from birth, they are not likely to have held jobs, which automatically disqualifies them from earning SSDI benefits.

To qualify for SSI, your child must meet strict financial requirements. If your child is under the age of 18, the SSA will assess part of your income and resources on behalf of your child as part of a process called "[parental deeming](#)."

Compassionate Allowance Listing (CAL) and Medical Criteria

The SSA understands that individuals with severely disabling conditions may not be able to wait the standard processing times to receive disability benefits. For this reason, the SSA runs the "Compassionate Allowance" program. Through this initiative, individuals with inherently disabling conditions can qualify for benefits in as little as ten days. Fortunately, Cri du Chat syndrome is among the conditions that qualify for Compassionate Allowance processing.

Although your child is eligible for expedited processing, you will still need to submit a full application to the SSA.

As part of the disability benefit application process, the SSA requires that the candidate meet certain medical requirements. These can be found in the SSA's "blue book." The blue book is divided into adult listings and child listings. Cri du Chat Syndrome is listed in Section 110.08B of Congenital Disorders that Affect Multiple Body Systems. To qualify, the candidate is required to provide:

- A laboratory report of the definitive test that documents your disorder (in this case, a genetic test showing at least partial deletion of chromosome 5) signed by a physician.
- An unsigned laboratory report *and* a report from a physician confirming your child's diagnosis.

A report from a physician stating that your child has the disorder with the typical clinical features of the disorder and that your child had definitive testing done.

Learn more about medical eligibility for [Cri du Chat Syndrome](#).

The Application Process

To begin the application process for disability benefits, you should call the SSA and inform them of your intent to apply. If your child is under the age of 18, you will want to schedule an appointment to attend a mandatory interview. Be sure to explain that your child has Cri du Chat Syndrome and is eligible for Compassionate Allowance processing.

If your child is older than 18, you can fill out the application online or in person. There is no mandatory interview for adults applying for SSD benefits.

Gather documentation of all medical visits and statements from caregivers and other professionals. Remember to bring your own financial information as well if you are applying for SSI benefits on behalf of your child. For a complete list of necessary records and documentation, visit the SSA's "[Interview Checklist](#)."

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LEARN SHARE CONNECT

YouTube Videos to watch

5p- Society "I Can" video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AEvN0-6M6I>
2015 Virtual 5k for 5p- video Recap
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWX6NHj0nwY&feature=youtu.be>
Adam & Tyler Buckner on KASA morning news! 5/30/2014
<http://kasa.com/2014/05/29/cru-du-chat/>
Cri du Chat Awareness US
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbWDG3JXFL4>
Video to increase awareness of Cri du Chat in the US and across the globe. By Larry McSeed
Cri du Chat Awareness Video—Australia Support Group
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6wk4bFVz2g> Australia Support Group awareness video for 2012 Awareness Week.
International Cri du Chat Syndrome Awareness— Meet Nellie
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zw2joxiYjR4>
Emma's "Steps of Faith"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giW_iP5ibr8&feature=youtube_gdata_player
Documentary by Maria Ripoli
<http://www.cromosomacinc.com/>
Meet James Chalmers
<https://www.facebook.com/james.chalmers.3994/videos/10207221038346912/>

Books to read

A Book to my son Nathan: <http://www.mixbook.com/photo-books/interests/blank-canvas-8309369?vk=ymWDIdOAWC>.
Raised by my Child by Sally D. Yantis-Grube, 2011—Mom to Heidi, 18-year-old with Cri du Chat Syndrome.
Her Name is Montel, by Casey Evans, 2005—Dad to Montel, 20-year-old with Cri du Chat Syndrome.
Beauty in Broken Dreams: A Hopeful Handbook for the Early Years as a Special Needs Parent, by Kathy McClelland, 2017, mom to Nathan a four-year-old with Cri du Chat syndrome. https://www.amazon.com/Beauty-Broken-Dreams-Hopeful-Handbook-ebook/dp/B06W575N8Q/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1509381275&sr=8-1&keywords=beauty+in+broken+dreams.
Confessions of a Special Needs Dad by Mark Wallace Maguire, a book of hope, healing, and honesty that dads are not alone.

Blogs to follow

- <http://livingwithcriduchat.blogspot.com/http://elastamom.com>
- www.kathymcclelland.com by Kathy McClelland
- <http://livingwithcriduchatmosaicism.blogspot.co.nz/>
- <http://mikeandbrittanierickson.blogspot.com>
- <http://thissideofordinary.blogspot.com>
- <http://beautifulunexpectedjourney.blogspot.com>
- <http://www.cdcslovehope.com/blogspot.com>
- <http://clairematilda.wordpress.com>
- <http://crazyincognito.blogspot.com>
- <http://myriverside.wordpress.com>
- <http://allaboutvayla.blogspot.com>
- <http://brennanandcalebsmom.blogspot.com>
- <http://praiseyouinthestorm.com>
- www.prayforellee.org
- <http://notquiteearthmother.wordpress.com>
- <http://tricia-themama.blogspot.com>
- www.angelarichey.blogspot.com/
- <http://lessonsfrommydaughter.me>
- <http://martianmommy.blogspot.com>
- <http://www.specialneedsdadchronicles.space>
- <http://lifesunexpectedblessings.wordpress.com>
- www.specialneedsdadchronicles.com

Cri du Chat Syndrome and Social Security Disability Benefits . . .continued

Even if you receive benefits through Compassionate Allowance, be sure to finish the entire application process in a timely manner to avoid delays. If your claim is denied, know that this is a common outcome for many and it is not the end of the road. You will have 60 days to begin filing an appeal with the SSA. Applying for Social Security Disability benefits is hard work, but the payoff—financial assistance to keep your child healthy—is huge.

For more information about applying for disability benefits on behalf of a child with Cri du Chat Syndrome, click [here](#) or email Molly Clarke at mac@ssd-help.org.

**This is a reprint from 2012 newsletter

How has being the parent of a child with Special Needs allowed you to grow and learn things you may not have otherwise

Lori Miller

My daughter, Briana, is 35 years old. She was born with a rare chromosome anomaly called Cri-du-Chat Syndrome aka 5p- syndrome.

In 1984 the doctors didn't know much about the condition, but I was lucky enough to have a doctor on staff at Swedish Hospital in Seattle who was astute enough to consider that she had it, and chromosome staining confirmed the diagnosis 2 weeks after her birth. I was 12 days shy of my 24th birthday when Briana was born. She is my youngest daughter. Her sister is 3 years older than she is.

The research paper about CDC that my father who is an M.D. somehow dug up was rather grim. It talked about headbanging, microcephalia, Epicanthus, hypotonia, profound mental retardation. It said that the average age of toilet training was 10 years old and that some kids could learn to walk. The life expectancy was unknown, and the paper made it sound like the children with the syndrome didn't grow normally, and that they stayed small.

This research paper was the only piece of information found about Cri-du-Chat Syndrome. Reading it horrified me. I pictured my daughter in a padded room wearing a helmet, unable to communicate or walk and me changing her poopy diapers well into her adulthood.

My life as I knew it had ended, I was sure of it.

On the day I turned 24, Chris and I sat with the geneticist who seemed as unaware as we did about the prognosis. We were told that CDC Syndrome results from a deletion of the fifth chromosome in the p region.

I had one question above all others that I had to know. "Will she know that I'm her mom?"

That was it. The one defining question; If my daughter knew that I was her mom, I could handle anything thrown at me. I didn't get a straight answer because no one really knew.

The lessons I've learned while raising Briana are profound.

The first thing I learned was that the man I married, Chris, Briana's father, was more loyal than I ever could have imagined, and that his strength of character could hold both of us up during the early weeks that followed the birth of our special needs daughter.

And then I learned how strong a mother's determination can be. Being Briana's mom pushed me to the very edge of my endurance and perseverance, and I found a strength within myself that I didn't know I had.

By the time Briana was 3 weeks old, I had her enrolled in speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and an infant stimulation class. I'd take both of my daughters to the library and check out stacks of books about the brain and early childhood development. I read ferociously and implemented theories on how to increase brain weight and make synapses connections in the young brain. I became the commander on a mission into uncharted territories, but I've always been an adventurer so I took to the helm naturally.

Everyone's authentic self is on display during an encounter with Briana. Some people don't know what to make of her, they look away, or quickly change their course to put distance between themselves and my daughter.

Children learn from their parents. Over the years my heart has broken many times after incidences of outwardly hateful displays towards my sweet little girl. She was kicked out of swim lessons because some of the mothers complained that their daughters felt uncomfortable around her. It still brings tears to my eyes when I think about it.



Continue on page 9

Growing and learning as a mom to a Special Needs child . . . *continued*

I was so proud of Briana, watching her from the edge of the pool, following instructions and keeping up the best she could with the lessons. After the 2nd lesson, the instructor told me how much she regretted dismissing her, and that she thought Brian was doing an excellent job, but she couldn't keep her in the class because of the bitchy mothers who didn't want their precious, impeccable little girls in the same water as my imperfect daughter.

Another time we were at the post office and Briana stood near a young girl about 7 yrs old. Briana was a high school student but looked about 12. She was keeping her hands to herself, and I remember thinking how good her behavior was. Briana loves to hug people and we were working on teaching her to keep her boundaries. I could tell the little girl was nervous, she kept moving away from Briana and seemed fearful of her. All of a sudden, her mother started screaming at Briana.

"Get out of here, you shouldn't be here. Get away from my daughter!" She yelled.

I'm a very patient person, but no one talks to my daughter like that. You better believe that put that woman in her place.

Being Briana's mom has been the most rewarding experience of my life. Every achievement cause for celebration and nothing, and I do mean nothing, is taken for granted.

Briana took her first steps when she was 2 years old. It was the most thrilling event I've ever had. Every night Chris and I would extend the gap between us, and Briana would amble from me to him, over and over again, and we'd all laugh as though it were the funniest thing to ever occur in the history of the world.

The first time Briana put 5 words together was an event like no other.

"I want go bye-bye," she said.

They said she wouldn't do it. But we proved them all wrong.

I've met remarkable people on this journey. Mothers, and fathers, and kids, and teachers, and therapists, and doctors, and ordinary people who do enlightened work, and who have abundant love to give. I've learned that the human condition is so complex, and that we all have a path on which we travel. Some of us are selfish, egocentric, hateful, and uneducated but mostly we humans have a lot of love and compassion for one another, and my daughter Briana is chief amongst us in that department.

Briana's capacity for love puts her in the category of what I call, 'angels who dwell on earth'. I don't say that lightly. She is indeed a spiritual being, enlightened really. She lives in the moment and is completely authentic.

I've come to the conclusion that Briana's purpose in life is to spread the love. She touches people's hearts every day. As a stranger in Target once said to me after Briana hugged her, "you don't know how much I needed that."



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Recently, Briana almost died. It's a long story but in a nutshell, she had a severe case of ARDS and was in the ICU on life support for 4 weeks. Because she was intubated for so long Briana now has a very weak swallow and is at risk for aspiration. She is now getting her nutrition through a g-tube. I am heartbroken for my dear daughter who wants to eat yet can't.

But every day I am reminded of her incredible spirit. She is such a trooper! It's been nearly 3 months, and she's still in a facility getting rehab. I'm very proud of her for acting like such an adult.

My daughter is very brave in the face of adversity.

Again, another lesson taught to me by a very special human being who I am proud to call my daughter.



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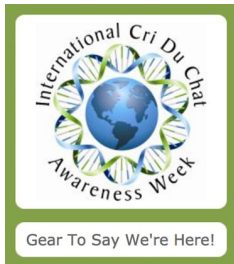
Thank you for your Support! Ways to Help the 5p- Society

When SEARCHING the internet, don't forget to use GOODSEARCH – sign up and put in 5p- Society as your Cause. The 5p- Society gets a penny for every search.

www.goodsearch.com.



When purchasing items on Amazon, make sure you go to AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.com/> and choose to support 5p- Society (Lakewood). The 5p- Society gets a small % of what you purchase. Every little bit counts and we are grateful to you for your participation.



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