

Gabrielle's Story

By Her Mom (Kaisa Lopes)

I was finishing up my clinical hours in Chinese Medical School when something very unexpected happened. I went into labor prematurely. I was 26 weeks pregnant (normal gestation is 40 weeks) when Gabrielle was born on a cold fall day. I had no idea how this day would change my life.

Gabrielle is currently four years old, but had a rough start in this world. Gabrielle was born weighing 1.5 lbs and she spent six months in the NICU at CHOC hospital where she underwent 2 intestinal surgeries, developed seizures, had feeding issues, contracted a couple of infections and basically fought for her life. As a result of her prematurity she also has cerebral palsy. Gabrielle has a severe case. She is still trying to hold up her head and can not crawl, talk, or walk yet.

Hence, my excitement to start this cerebral palsy summer program for children. Many times alternative therapies are not covered by insurance companies and can be very costly for parents to offer to their children. The goal of this program is to offer children and their parents a wide variety of therapies to enrich and benefit their children while being provided by volunteer practitioners. There currently is no cure for cerebral palsy, therefore therapies that incorporate the brain with neuromuscular stimulation can be helpful for this condition. Please visit the web page for specific therapies offered and scheduling: xxxxxx