



Lorraine Lister's daughter Charlie, joined The Garth School in 2003.

Lorraine wanted a school for Charlie where she could make friends and experience life's opportunities.

She's an outdoors kinda girl!

Lorraine, "Charlie loves the outdoors, it is a sensory experience for her and the fact that Garth offer so much of this within their curriculum has been pivotal to Charlie's progression and I honestly feel that they treat her like a queen!"

"She goes ice skating, trampolining, has regular visits within the community to restaurants, parks and cafes, she has been on Zoo visits. These are life experiences that she can now grasp! An outdoor experience gives her a full sensory experience she experiences rain, snow, sun on her face, wind, smells and sounds".



THE SPALDING
SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Together

From tricky beginnings...

Charlie has complex needs. She is registered blind, has Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Scoliosis, she is nonverbal and Quadriplegic. Charlie was 3 years old when she began her schooling at Garth.

Lorraine, "We were introduced to The Garth School via Portage. It is always a scary time for any parent when your child begins their school life but because of Charlie's needs I was anxious about making the right choice for her. Garth have offered Charlie so much over the years, one thing in particular is the Hydro-pool. Most schools just cannot offer freedom in the water, but Garth can! Charlie swims twice a week. This is an important time for her when she is not strapped to a chair, not wedged down, and has absolute freedom".

Charlie has had some tough years during the beginning of her life. Born with severe disabilities and requiring major surgery to try and reduce stiffness and spasms to make her more flexible and comfortable. Cerebral Palsy caused dislocation of Charlie's hips and again, she underwent surgery whereby an ITP pump was inserted into her tummy and a catheter leading to her spine, to help relax her.

A team effort, achieving together.

Lorraine performs daily physio on Charlie, every morning and every evening, and Garth take over during the daytime. Physiotherapy keeps Charlie relaxed; if Charlie is relaxed she is more comfortable, if she is comfortable she can concentrate on what is going on around her.

The Garth School purchased an 'Achiever Station' specifically for Charlie 18 months ago. She is able to be out of her wheelchair and on the achiever bed to access her interactive white board.

Lorraine, "Charlie loves school, she is so happy to come in, she wriggles her bum with excitement. She has her own friends now and responds to them. She really is a different young lady, more relaxed and happy.



"Most schools just cannot offer freedom in the water, but The Garth School can!"

Spalding Special Schools Fellowship -

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