

## Meet Kirby

*A Communication Hub resource*

*(Gentle upbeat music)*

*1*

*00:00:18,280 --> 00:00:25,640*

*My name is Carol Litley and*

*my daughter Kirby was a teacher in 2014*

*2*

*00:00:25,640 --> 00:00:31,000*

*and we found out that she had a tumour on her brain stem*

*3*

*00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:35,000*

*and, unfortunately, after the craniotomy to remove it*

*4*

*00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:37,280*

*she had strokes to both sides of her brain*

*5*

*00:00:37,280 --> 00:00:41,680*

*and that left her unable to move from the head down at that stage.*

*6*

*00:00:41,680 --> 00:00:46,760*

*And, they had to put a tracheotomy in*

*and that meant that she couldn't talk.*

7

00:00:46,880 --> 00:00:50,680

*She couldn't swallow and virtually couldn't communicate.*

8

00:00:51,480 --> 00:00:56,160

*I'm Kaitlyn. I'm a speech pathologist from*

*Barwon Health in Community Rehab*

9

00:00:56,160 --> 00:01:02,600

*and I've known Kirby for about 18 months, working  
mainly on her swallowing, but communication as well.*

10

00:01:02,600 --> 00:01:05,160

*So previously, when she had the trachi,*

11

00:01:05,160 --> 00:01:08,840

*It had a valve to help her be able to get some voice*

12

00:01:09,120 --> 00:01:15,840

*and at different periods, she's used  
some writing or electronic device,*

13

00:01:15,840 --> 00:01:21,040

*but I think to Kirby's credit voice and using  
her speech has been number one goal.*

14

00:01:21,040 --> 00:01:25,640

*So she has really pushed through with that  
and used those things intermittently*

15

00:01:26,440 --> 00:01:30,880

*and now doesn't use any really,  
other types of communications, only verbal.*

16

00:02:05,480 --> 00:02:08,120

*Her confidence has increased greatly.*

17

00:02:08,120 --> 00:02:09,400

*She speaks up now.*

18

00:02:10,200 --> 00:02:12,560

*We even have some mother-daughter moments,*

19

00:02:12,560 --> 00:02:17,400

*which in a way are great because  
they're back to the relationship we had before.*

20

00:02:17,440 --> 00:02:21,000

*And when you get to that point*

*where you can actually have a disagreement*

21

00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:24,600

*and Kirby can speak up and give her opinion,*

22

00:02:24,600 --> 00:02:30,120

*it's wonderful because you're back to that*

*dynamic that was there before and disappeared.*

(Gentle upbeat music)