

# Up, Up and Away

Often when people meet Stacey Gorloff for the first time, she says that they are shocked to find out that this confident and talkative young woman ever received services at KidsAbility.

When she was young, Stacey’s mom, Maureen, knew that something wasn’t quite right; at 16 months of age she couldn’t walk or talk. Maureen placed the call to KidsAbility, and it was this call from her determined mother that altered the course of Stacey’s future.

Diagnosed with apraxia, Stacey’s parents found themselves on a journey that they were not prepared for. For Stacey’s two older siblings, walking and talking came naturally. This wasn’t the case for Stacey. KidsAbility became a part of her family to help Stacey achieve these goals and more.

“I remember crying as a child because I wanted to do something so badly, and I just couldn’t do it. Thankfully I had my mom behind me because she never gives up,” says Stacey.

Through physiotherapy and occupational therapy, Stacey learned how to walk. Through speech therapy, she began to form words. One of the turning points for Stacey was when she looked up to the sky and strung three words together for the first time: Hot air balloon. Stacey recalls her parents saying that these precious three words made them stop in their tracks as they just stared in shock and amazement at one another. Hot. Air. Balloon. Stacey could walk and she could certainly talk — achievements that her parents were told would be very difficult to achieve.

Being the ambassador in 2005 remains a highlight in Stacey’s life and she says that KidsAbility will always remain a special part of her life, whether it is as a volunteer or advocate.

Stacey graduated from the Community and Justice Services program at Mohawk College and is enjoying a fulfilling career and living life to its fullest. Down the road, her dreams include living on her own and starting a family.

“All of these things, I could not have done without KidsAbility and the support of my parents. It’s kind of scary to think about how I could have been without having gone to KidsAbility.”

She overcame everything that she was told that she would never be able to do. “It might have taken me longer to get there, but I did it.”



*Stacey Gorloff*

Kids Can’t Wait Kitchener-Waterloo Ambassador  
2004–2005