

Reece is developing his skills and making good progress in the happy atmosphere of Hatton School



Priya and Rajen Katechia live in Redbridge with their son, Reece, aged five.



Reece has a rare chromosome disorder, discovered at birth, which has caused some of his development to be delayed. Hatton School is his first school and he started there at the age of four.

Running and singing

Going to Hatton was definitely the best thing for Reece, his Mum, Priya says. 'Since starting at the school he has

made amazing progress. His teachers are superb with him and we can tell he is happy there. Doctors had told us that he may not walk and he may not talk, but he is now running and climbing and his speech is described by his teachers at Hatton as pre-verbal. He can now sing nursery rhymes and say his alphabet from A to Z.

Climbing stairs

'Since Reece started at Hatton last September the school have really helped him to develop his physical capabilities. Before he started school he couldn't climb stairs unaided, but now he has developed his core muscles and can climb stairs just like anyone else. He even enjoys playing on the climbing frame outdoors now,' Priya says.

Happy child

'Reece was a very floppy baby with low muscle tone and he didn't walk until the age of three. I was very worried when he first started at Hatton because he has to be fed milk through a pump, but the staff give it to him with no problems. He settled in so well, I became less anxious within the first few months. I can see he is okay because he looks happy when he says goodbye to his teacher and he is happy on the way home.

Small class

'Reece has a lovely relationship with his teacher, which is very cute. The staff get to know all the children well because they are in small classes. Reece would have been lost in a large class at a mainstream school. His classroom at Hatton is very light and airy, which helps Reece, because he needs simple, uncluttered space with plain walls and nothing to distract him. He has to feel calm to sit and have a book read to him,' Priya says.

Drawing and music

'I am pleased he is now learning his numbers and is enjoying touch and feel books. When Reece first started school it was identified that he needed to improve his motor skills, but now he will choose a colour, get a crayon and start to scribble on a piece of paper, which is real progress. Reece enjoys music therapy and I think he learns a lot from it. He likes singing and will play a xylophone at the same time. We have asked the music teacher to give him one lessons because we think it is doing him such good.

Sign language

'We can now communicate with Reece and ask him to do something by giving him simple commands that he understands. He uses PECS to communicate at school but I asked if he could learn Makaton sign language as well and the staff started him doing it straight away. I was very impressed with their quick and willing response,' Priya says.

The right school

'The staff at Hatton have gone out of their way to make a safe environment for Reece. As well as having taken on his feeds, the catering staff are blending his foods to the right consistency for his lunch, so I am reassured that he is eating properly there. Life is now becoming a lot easier for us as a family. A doctor once said: When you get the right school for your child, life suddenly becomes easier, and I can see such a big improvement in Reece since he started at Hatton, I now realise those words were true.'



Roding Lane South, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 8EU

Tel: 020 8551 4131

e-mail: admin.hatton@redbridge.gov.uk

website: www.hattonspecialschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Adrienne Wright

