

## Carter's Journey, July 2008

Our last trip to Montreal was three months ago, but Carter didn't show any signs of being uncomfortable while waiting an extra month for treatment. We needed to see Dr. Fassier, the surgeon, again and Carter's appointment wasn't until the end of July. After Carter's MRI on his hips in May, we had hoped to set a date for surgery sometime soon. Our meeting with Dr. Fassier didn't result in a date for surgery, but he was able to look at Carter and tell us that he wanted to be notified as soon as Carter was pulling to stand up on his own. They usually wait to do a rodding surgery until the child is standing, but we weren't sure if Carter would be able to pull to stand with his hips out of place. Since he is crawling everywhere and getting so much stronger every day, we are able to see that he is gaining all the skills and strength he is going to need to stand up soon. Custom-made braces for his lower legs are going to help him with his standing and he will also wear them at night to stretch his achilles tendons. Carter was casted on our first day at the hospital to make molds for his braces and we picked them up on our third day out there.



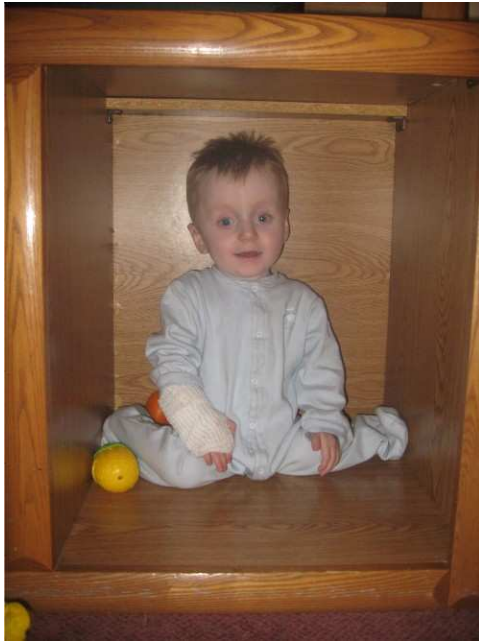
He did not appreciate the staff at the hospital touching him at all this time. Between the casting of his legs and his IV insertion on the first day, he had quite a few tears. Since he is really on the go these days, we were not sure how he would react to his arm being wrapped up. He got around as best he could and never complained (unless the nurse was around).



Now that he has gotten older, he is able to participate in some of the projects in the playroom. One day he made a puppet and the next day he painted a hat. It was a little dangerous to be around him when he was swinging his paintbrush, but he did pretty well.



By the second night of having his IV in, Carter was really moving around the hotel room quite well. He had a favourite spot to play in the entertainment centre and spent a lot of time climbing in and out of the cubby.



Carter's little braces have sure helped a lot in the week since we've been home. We spend time doing standing practice during the day and he is improving quickly. When we tried to get him to stand before he had his braces, his legs would swing around and his feet would barely touch the ground....tiptoe if anything. He still needs a lot of help with his balance, but the strength is coming.

