

The word that comes to mind when I think of Playsense is "imagination". I have been involved with Playsense as a Special Services at Home worker through Trellis as well as a community partner through Onward Willow. Whether I am sending my youth as volunteers or I am there with a youth, imagination is always the key. At Playsense, you can dream and these dreams become realities. I have flown to space, built new homes, completed spy missions, gone through car washes, sang danced, and created masterpieces. I have gone sledding in the mat room, become invisible in the dark room, and raced to China in the play room. If the idea exists in the mind of the children, we make it a reality through play at Playsense. I am truly amazed and thankful for the experiences that Playsense has provided to the community.

*~Alisa Fiorino*

At a time when doctors had all but given up on Crystal our world was blessed with a placement for Crystal at Hopewell. She went from a little 14 year old girl who could not eat without great challenges and her days were filled with constant pain to a pain free chubby happy young adult. So when asked what Hopewell has done for our lives I can only say that thanks to everyone there they gave Crystal a second chance at life. The love and dedication of the great staff is very evident each and every day of Crystal's life. To me Hopewell has given a great sense of peace of mind. I know that she has a good life surrounded by friends and staff that love her and give her the best care in the world. When her dad was dying he had said to me "I know Crystal will be alright". He had total trust in Hopewell and felt they would take care of his princess.

*~ Barb Jardine*

I have 14 year old triplets who run the gamut of special needs – all of them are diagnosed on the autistic spectrum as well as having numerous health and learning disabilities. We have been attending Playsense for the last 4 years, not only as a family, but through their school and camp programs as well.

The Playsense facilities are wonderful for any children with special needs – there is something there that will appeal to any child. From gross motor play to sensory equipment to needing a quiet place to sit, Playsense affords any child a fun and worthwhile experience. Staff at Playsense are uniformly welcoming, warm, accepting, and adaptive to the needs of any child that walks through their door.

Playsense is not only a welcome activity as a family in our week and during school breaks, but a very welcome affirmation that our children have worth and are important as individuals. The activities and equipment are designed to bring out the best in each child, and also provide a fun experience. As a parent, it's also a comfort to know that the staff are prepared to deal with any situation (fell free to email me about our 13<sup>th</sup> birthday party!!)

My children are always wonderfully individualistic, but I never have to worry when they display non-typical behaviours or mannerisms. Playsense is a safe and welcome haven for my entire family, and I cannot recommend them enough. Thank you to all of Guelph's Rotary clubs (and anyone else that needs to be thanked) as well as the staff at Playsense.

*~ Jeanette Neibler*

There are not enough great words to describe how Hopewell has impacted our lives. Michael has been at Hopewell for about 10 years. Hopewell is like a second home to our family, the staff is incredible and they treat the children as if they were their own. There is not a day that goes by that I am not thinking about Michael and even when i know I can't be there all the time, I know he is well looked after. There are times when I do come and visit Michael and I do get upset as I am sure many parents do, because the guilt of not being able to look after your child can be overwhelming, the staff at Hopewell are very supportive and are always willing to lend an ear if you need to talk. Our family has been blessed to have Michael placed in such a wonderful, caring environment with an incredible staff. Like I said there are not enough words to describe how grateful we are and how Hopewell has impacted our lives and continues to impact the lives of many people especially our children. Thank you Hopewell Staff!!

*~Sheila and Brent Barr*