

Charity gives the parents of disabled toddler a lifeline with special car seat

by Daisy Jestico

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A toddler with quadriplegic cerebral palsy has been handed a lifeline after his parents were unable to afford urgent new equipment.

Three-year-old Khalid Johnson from Tottenham was born with the condition, which affects the function of his limbs, and also suffers from partial blindness, epilepsy and various developmental disorders – all of which make it painful for him to even lie down or breathe properly.

And because of his problems moving, his parents have to carry him around by car and needed a specialist car seat to support him. A normal seat was too painful for him to use.

Smiling

But parents and full-time carers Summerlyn and Dennestus, of Tebworth Road, were unable to pay the hefty £1,000 price-tag so turned to

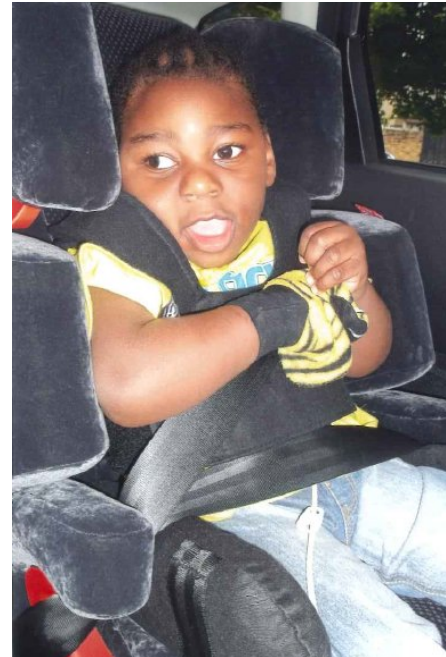
children's charity React for help.

His 24-year-old mum, who described her son as always "smiling and giggling" said: "It has always been demanding caring for him as we need to be with him 24 hours a day. There have been times when it feels like it is too much but we love Khalid and want to give him the best life possible.

"We were very, very happy when React said they would provide the car seat, as we had been trying to get it for a long time, but no one seemed to be able to help."

His various conditions also mean he is unable to sleep very well at night, he needs to be fed strict diet five times a day and attends a special needs nursery three times a week.

Khalid's parents felt the charity, which provides a wide range of essential equipment to children with life-limiting conditions, was "their only hope" and were thrilled when it agreed to foot the bill for the car seat. It is hoped Khalid will be able to use the equipment until he is at least nine.



■ Khalid Johnson in his new car seat