

Charity helps Dylan to relax in comfort

Family's joy after Dylan is given custom-made specialist seat

CHRISTMAS is a special time of year for many families and will be even more so for Angela and James Kay of Langholm.

Thanks to help from the children's charity React, their son, Dylan, who is living with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, will celebrate this Christmas from the comfort of his own, custom-made specialist seat.

React (Rapid Effective Assistance for Children with potentially Terminal illness) improves the quality of life for children with life-limiting illnesses who are in families experiencing financial hardship.

Dylan, nine, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when he was eight weeks old. He has no mobility and as he is developmentally delayed, cortically blind and suffering from severe epilepsy, he needs 24-hour care.

Despite his parents and siblings, James, five, and Nicola, 13, giving him all the love and care he needs, the

family was distraught to find that the wheelchair and postural support seat Dylan relied on for his physical needs, was causing him discomfort and pain.

Angela said: "It took a very long time for us to come to terms with Dylan's illness but, as a family, we do our best to make sure he is always as comfortable as possible so he can enjoy the little things he loves.

"When it became clear he couldn't even sit in his wheelchair without becoming distressed, it really was devastating for all of us."

The family searched for a suitable option and were delighted when they came across the P Pod Bean Seat; a specialist piece of equipment used by children with complex physical needs.

It was clear Dylan found the chair incredibly comfortable and supportive and with the help of his specialist physiotherapist and social worker, the family contacted React for help.

Angela said: "This equipment was not available from the local authority so we agonised over how we would afford it. The cost was simply beyond our means. We had come across React a couple of years ago and thought they may be able to help."

"When we applied, we were so nervous because we didn't know what we would do if they couldn't help. When we heard they would, we were over the moon and were so excited that we rang all our friends and family to tell them. Dylan is such a happy boy and now he really can enjoy doing the things he loves, like sitting and listening to music. He loves the P Pod seat and without charities like React, we simply wouldn't be able to access this type of equipment."

If you are caring for or know of a child who may need React's help, contact the team on 020 8940 2575.

Alternatively, if you would like to help React, go to www.reactcharity.org



Dylan Kay tries out his custom-made specialist seat