

Molly May

Molly May is simply a marvel!

Our physically disabled 11 year old son has been trapped in the home for over 15 months due to inaccessibility and is further impacted by an anti-social neighbour and his loud, aggressively barking dog. This has resulted in our son not being able to attend school, medical appointments, socialize with friends, access essential therapies or simply enjoy fresh air.

In addition, having not been able to get out of the house for so long has impacted significantly on our son's confidence and motivation – he is resistant to getting fully dressed as he associates this with going out.

Molly is the therapy dog at our son's school and Bernie, Molly's owner is also the Occupational Therapist there and she thought it a good idea to bring Molly to visit our son, following a home visit in her capacity as Occupational Therapist and our son was delighted at the prospect.

The first visit from Molly was simply a joy and the effect she had and continues to have on our son is remarkable – his anxiety and stress dissipate almost instantly and he is much more inclined to engage in certain activities with Molly present.

The effect and value of Molly and what she does is amazing and an example of this is what occurred on the morning of 9th December 2021. A rep was arranged to carry out an assessment for a stair climber which would enable us to get our son physically out of the house. Bernie suggested bringing Molly to our home that morning to support and help our son with having to get fully dressed, engage with the rep, who was a stranger and also to get our son to use the equipment as part of the assessment.

Not only did our son get dressed AND sit in the stair climber, he then announced that he wanted to take Molly for a walk and insisted that his socks and shoes be put on. We went with this and the rep demonstrated how the stair climber worked whilst our son was sitting in it and being transported down the stairs. Molly, Bernie and I were waiting at the bottom of the stairs and we transferred our son to his wheelchair, he held Molly's lead and we exited the building. This was the FIRST time that our son had been outside in over 13 months and he was delighted to be out walking Molly and even suggested where to go!

This was a huge achievement and it was a wonderful early Christmas present as we simply could not have imagined this happening. To see his joy and delight at being outside with Molly and having the winter sun on his face was incredibly emotional and this was ALL possible because of Molly May!

We cannot really convey in words the value that Molly brings to our son and his situation, he cannot wait for her visits or "Molly Time" as he calls them. Molly's

presence immediately relaxes our son even though he is so excited to see her. His anxiety simply melts away, the ASB neighbour is forgotten and he is more willing to engage with activities/physio/getting dressed etc.

We ALL love Molly's visits, she is the cutest, sweetest little dog and brings a wonderful aura with her. Molly is a little bundle of positivity and her visits enhance our son's life and gives him the confidence and motivation to do things that he struggles with normally. What Molly May does is incredible and invaluable, she is a very special dog and we cannot praise her enough or thank her and Bernie enough for what they do for our son.