

NEXUS CHAMPION PRESTON SIMPSON



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MERCEDES SIMPSON
Preston's Mother

Preston Simpson was in an ATV accident, and at just under a year later, he's doing remarkably well! After being life-flighted to Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, Preston underwent a craniotomy on his right side because of brain bleeding and swelling. He was also placed in an induced coma for two weeks. After 30 days, the skull flap was replaced, and Preston transferred to Nexus Children's Hospital on a very special occasion — his second birthday.

“When we arrived, the hospital staff sang happy birthday to him and from that day on we started our journey,” said Mercedes Simpson, Preston's mother. **“At that point, he wasn't sitting up and didn't have the best head control. Those were some of the first main goals we had for him.”**

Preston was admitted to the Brain Injury Program for clinical monitoring, neuro checks, neurorehabilitation, and nutrition services. His mom explained things move pretty quickly once they arrived.

“As soon as we got there, they assessed Preston and got him in a wheelchair right away. We started therapy right away, too,” said Mercedes. **“Within the first two weeks, he was walking and running down the hallway. He wasn't using the right side of his body, but they really helped with that also.”**

Preston enjoyed physical therapy the most. He was such an active little kid before the accident, that he took to how active PT was. Brenda Salas, the Director of Rehabilitation, said, **“Preston proved to be quite determined. Seeing his functional recovery to walking was so rewarding for all of us. His family's presence and involvement made a real difference. We're all TEAM PRESTON!”**

Just 23 months old at the time of the accident, Preston was starting to work on talking and his vocabulary. His mom shared, **“He did participate in speech therapy at Nexus, but the main focus was eating and drinking on his own again without the ng tube, which he mastered!”**

While day one in a new hospital was nerve wracking, Mercedes explained Nexus really set Preston up to further progress on his own after discharge.

“From the beginning, we knew there were two facilities Preston could go to, and we wanted him to go to the best place possible,” said Mercedes. **“That was Nexus. I couldn't imagine going from home right after the first hospital. His time at Nexus really progressed his recovery and rehabilitation. It was such a blessing he was there. Preston is now doing everything he should for his age and Nexus was a major part of the journey.”**

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