

Facing Forward



A B O U T F A C E

Can I Go Next Year?? by Jeannie Ludewigt

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August and Camp Director Colleen

My daughter is 10 years old and attended her first Camp Trailblazers in September 2013. We received the information for camp from the Cleft Palate Clinic in Hamilton, where August got her cleft lip and palate repair. I mentioned it to August and she was very interested in going to the camp.

When it was finally time for camp, we waited eagerly in Barrie for the bus to arrive. Once the bus arrived I began to worry that August might get cold feet going off somewhere strange by herself, but when the bus stopped, the most wonderful person came out and straight over to August and said, "Hi August!". We found out the August was the newbie so it was easy for Colleen to recognize her. We were amazed at how friendly everyone was, so thank you Colleen, for making her feel relaxed and welcomed! Next, we were worried that she would hesitate to get on the bus, but she grabbed her stuff, loaded it on the back of the bus, gave us each a big hug and kiss and she got on right away! We stood there waiting for about 10 minutes, then the bus started to leave and we waved goodbye, hoping she would have a good time.

return. There it was pulling into the parking lot, and I was getting excited to see August and hear about her experiences. She ran off the bus straight towards me, and with not even a hello she blurted out, "Can I go next year???" All the way home, I got to hear her delightful experiences at camp. She was truly amazed that there were others with cleft lip and palate – even though we go to the hospital clinic, she has never met anyone else like her. She wears her Camp Trailblazers t-shirt at least 3 days of the week. She even did a project at school on Camp Trailblazers. When I look at the pictures that have been posted of camp, she looks a bit quiet and reserved, but she insists that she had the best time ever! I have started a scrapbook of her experiences at Camp Trailblazers, so she can look back on her memories in the years to come. Thank you Camp Trailblazers and AboutFace for being there for her and all the other children! See you in August 2014!

On a Tuesday afternoon, once again in Barrie, I waited for the bus to



August and the high ropes

Camp Trailblazers 2014 is coming up soon! Our Nova Scotia camp has already started and the Ontario camp is Aug. 13-17. The deadline to apply has passed but we are accepting some late additions so **APPLY NOW!!** Our Manitoba and Newfoundland camps are still in the fall so there is still time, but make sure your child doesn't miss out and **APPLY NOW!**