

Jayde

She was born three weeks premature on July 4, 2009. Jayde was so small, only five pounds and fourteen ounces, and so cute—today, with blond hair and blue eyes. She lives in a small town in Vermont with her older brother, Timothy (12), whom Jayde loves to tease, and shares a bedroom with her older sister Jasmine (11).

In many ways, her life is typical. About a year ago, at Christmas, Jayde got a black lab puppy, and they are always playing together. When the puppy chews her stuff, Jayde is sure to let him know that he is a “Bad, bad, boy!” Jayde is very independent and wants to do everything herself. She always gets her way with her dad. But Jayde was born with a birth defect. She has no left hand and only half of her left forearm. Naturally most people wonder how Jayde is going to do all those things that come so easily to the rest of us--it is going to be so hard for her in life. When Jayde was one, she was taken to Shriners Hospitals for Children in Massachusetts for a prosthetic hand. She would not wear it.

“Over the years, Jayde has shown me that she can do things that will amaze you. One of those times was this year at Thanksgiving. There were thirty-five adults and six children ages five to fourteen. The three oldest kids were watching television downstairs, and the two younger ones were playing in the toy box. People were eating, playing games, talking, laughing. Then someone put on some music, and everyone came into the living room and started to dance. Jayde, not wanting to be left out of the festivities, started dancing with her aunt. As the rhythm of the music changed Jayde thought nothing of dropping to the floor, putting her nubby down and break dancing. She made it look so easy.

As the music ended, she held her little nubby up to me to hold and said ‘Come on Granny, I have to show you something.’ I know Jayde is going to amaze me again and again. I know now that whatever comes Jayde’s way as she grows up, she will be fine.

Caroline, Her Amazed Grandmother



Jayde – Courageous Five-Year-Old

“I am proud of the way I was born, and I don’t need a fake hand.”