



CASE STUDY

Chloe's Story

daytotjoey

A Premature Birth

Chloe was born in France in January 2022 at 33 weeks, seven weeks before her due date. Hospitalized in neonatology, she was not only followed by a very competent medical team but also surrounded every day by her mom and dad. A premature birth always raises many questions. In Chloe's case, it was the development of her motor skills.

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With a low birth weight, confined to an incubator with less muscle strength than a full-term baby, Chloe was at risk of not being able to practice the movements necessary for the future development of her muscles and joints, slowing down her motor skills development. Chloe also had a torticollis that could affect her later development, particularly in the development of her head posture.

Motor Risks

Chloe's mother was well aware of these risks as she was working with Marianne Barbu-Roth's research team who were developing solutions to stimulate the motor skills of infants. As soon as she was discharged from hospital, Chloe met with the team's therapist who identified possible risks to her motor development with an overall "comma" posture with a right concavity, linked to the in-utero position, having led to shortening of the lateral neck muscles (sternocleidomastoid) or torticollis. In addition, a tendency to flatten his bony skull due to the asymmetrical support of the posterior part of his head on hard surfaces (mattress, mat, etc.) was developing. Finally, asymmetry in the tone of the four limbs, also linked to the in-utero position (right upper limb and right lower limb "tighter") was observed.



For further information visit:
www.daytotjourneys.com/datot-joeey



Training on Joey

Quick intervention was needed to improve the cranial deviations (torticollis/early plagiocephaly) and to give Chloe the maximum chance to work on her head movement symmetry while strengthening her trunk and limb muscles. The decision was made to train Chloe to propel herself on Joey for up to 10 minutes a day (2x 5 minute sessions) at home for 8 weeks. Chloe's first attempts on Joey were spectacular, with Chloe propelling herself without any problems. Over the course of the sessions, Chloe quickly figured out how to do this. She sometimes got upset when going back and forth with Joey, so her parents took a break between these sessions and over time she began to enjoy them more.

The "Joey" effect

Throughout the training, Chloé made remarkable progress, running longer and longer distances. At the end of the training, the mother noticed a real change in her little girl's musculature, as she became more confident in her movements and multiplied her own movements when she was on her back in bed. Chloe was not only much more able to move but she loved to move! Visits to the therapist confirmed a really positive effect of Joey with a progressive correction of the torticollis and plagiocephaly, a better symmetry of movements and a reduction of the head extension position in relation to the spinal axis.

Today Chloe is 6 months old, corrected age, she turns from her stomach to her back, from her back to her stomach, sits almost on her own and is starting to crawl. She is an adorable little girl who makes her parents happy every day.

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