

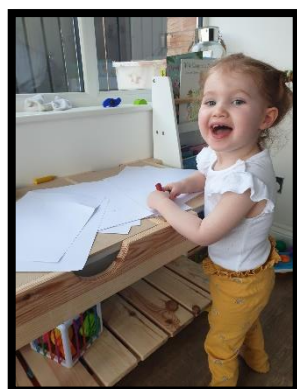
Ida's story July 2022

Service name: Play Intervention Service

Main purpose of service: Working together with families and children's therapy. Organising and implementing fun play activities to support a child's development.

Meet Ida!

Ida is 2 years old and has a condition called Polymicrogyria. The condition is characterized by abnormal development of the brain before birth. The surface of the brain normally has many ridges or folds, called gyri. In people with polymicrogyria, the brain develops too many folds, and the folds are unusually small. The name of this condition literally means too many (poly-) small (micro-) folds (-gyria) in the surface of the brain. Ida's Mum Lauren explains that Ida's condition has led to epilepsy and Global Development Delay and that Ida has known the occupational therapy and physiotherapy teams from being a baby. Ida was referred to Jodie, Locala's Play Intervention Lead earlier this year.



Positive:

Lauren takes up their story. **"I felt a bit stuck. I didn't know the best way to go forward. Ida was referred to Jodie for 6 weeks and I didn't know what to expect."** Lauren felt positive from the first session with Jodie. **"She asked what Ida liked, what's her favourite toy? She tried to really get to know Ida. Jodie was so positive and so easy to talk to. The focus was more on what Ida *could* do, rather than what she *couldn't* do."** Lauren was given the choice whether to have the 6 appointments all at home, at nursery or both. Lauren chose to have 3 sessions at home and 3 at nursery.

Targets: Jodie worked with Ida on achievable targets. Lauren recalls how she felt when Jodie brought a baby doll to a session. **"I never thought she'd be ready to play with a doll. But straight away, Ida took the doll and pretended to feed it. It was emotional! Until then, she'd only really pushed something or made something light up."** Jodie taught Ida how to play with a piggy bank. At first Ida didn't have the fine motor skills to post the coins into it. After 4 weeks of practice, she was able to do it.

Resilient: Lauren describes her daughter as 'resilient', **"She's shown that she can work things out herself, including shuffling on her bum to get around!"** Lauren has appreciated Jodie's approach, **"She didn't underestimate Ida. There was no judgement, more an understanding that she'll get there in the end."** Lauren's experience of the Play Intervention Service with Ida has left her positive about how helpful the sessions have been. She feels that the service should be expanded to ensure it is available for more children and that more sessions should be available for each child.

Lauren gives full consent for sharing Ida's patient story and talked on the phone with Joanne Vaughan, Engagement Officer on 5.7.22