

June 2008

Today is my "little" Triplo X princess's 10th birthday. I wanted to give everyone an update on how she is doing. We found out about her Triplo X about 5 years ago.

At 10 years old, she stands 5' 1" tall, weighs about 120 pounds. She wears the same size shirt I do and her foot is only 1/2 shoe size away from mine (she is a 7.5 woman!) Her body is quite obviously changing from a kid to a young woman at this point. When I pick her up from school, it's hard to pick her out from the teachers when I am a bit of distance away, as they are all the same height / size.

For her birthday this year she requested dolls and electronics (typical awkward "tween"!). She's very into American Girl dolls but also wanted a new MP3 player and digital piano. One of her special talents is the ability to figure out pretty much any piece of software or electronic device....with minimal reading skills.

This year, she has made some friends (so socially, she's improving). She's about 2nd grade level for reading and 3rd grade level for math. She's just wrapping up the 4th grade. Her speech problems are really holding her back socially, but she manages ok. 5th grade should be ok for her, but I am not looking forward to middle school.

She attends a special day class, with mainstreaming 1/2 day. There are 3 kids in her "home room" and 1 aid. She gets a lot of 1:1 teaching. Cathy managed to get an A+ on her "mainstream" science test this week, and we just heard that one of her pieces of art will be displayed at a local art show featuring the works of some of the kids at her school! I'm very proud of her, but of course she does still struggle. She has unresolved apraxia (I had speech therapy til I was 10, but she will need it for a bit longer than I did). Most of her speech problems now are associated with sentence structure and word recall. Her short term memory is bad, her long term memory is scary amazing. She remembers details from when she was 3 years old and didn't have the verbal ability to communicate them. She is now fully capable of caring for herself, but lets me help her every chance she gets. Cathy absolutely loves animals and is very sad because her dad won't let her get a dog (we're working on him!).

I am a bit worried that she might be depressed, as she does frequently tell me she is sad (even at times I think she should be very happy). The two things she bring up most frequently as the cause is the lack of a dog in our home and the fact that one of the kids in her class annoys her and she wishes he went to another school. It's always hard to tell if this is typical "tween" stuff or early signs of depression.

Enough rambling! Anyway, I just wanted to share with everyone how she is doing. I'm so very proud of her!

Written by Cathy's mom
Cathy is 10 years old today!