Jake, Alabama

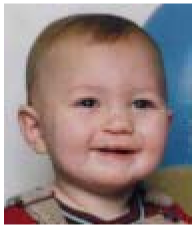
"cleftAdvocate and the Family-to-Family Connection have been such a wonderful support for our family. It is great to have a network of people who know what you're going through or have an answer to any question you may have. I cannot imagine life without either resource...and only wish I had such support when Jake was born!"

Tina, Mom to Jake

Cassie, Delaware

"I am so thankful to have found cleftAdvocate and the Family-To-Family Connection. I wish I would have known about it while we were going through that difficult first year. It is such a wonderful place for information, support, and friendship."

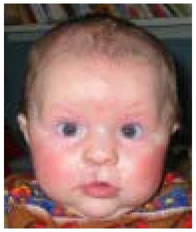
Christi, Mom to Cassie



Harrison, Iowa

"cleftAdvocate has been the best source of information! The members of the Family-to-Family Connection have answered all of my questions about feeding and speech, and have even helped calm my pre-surgery jitters. cleftAdvocate has made everything so much easier!"

Jessica, Mom to Harrison



Conall, Ottawa, Canada

"cleftAdvocate's Family-to-Family Connection (FTFC) has been there for me since I found out about Conall's cleft lip and palate through a routine ultrasound. If I have a question or just need someone to talk to, I always get my answer or some friendly discussion. Thanks to cleftAdvocate and the FTFC family, Conall's journey has been a lot easier!"

Patti, Mom to Conall

Gabrielle, Illinois

"The support we received upon joining cleftAdvocate's Family-To-Family Connection was beyond any we'd ever received. The immediate acceptance and understanding from the families was overwhelming. Now, just months later, we find ourselves on the giving end, sharing our thoughts and stories in support of new families. We've come full circle, and it is such a wonderful circle to be in!"

Lynne, Mom to Gabrielle

For education and inspiration...

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www.cleftadvocate.org

When

families

need

information

and

inspiration...

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Your helping hand...

Cleft Q&A
Answers to the questions most new parents ask, including feeding options, what to expect with surgery and recovery, and stress and family issues.

Cleft Teams/Local Support
Families use the interactive map to find assistance in their area. Includes website links.

Definitions
Making sense of medical terminology.

Learn More
Links to on-line information covering cleft/craniofacial topics from A to Z.

Insurance
How to advocate for appropriate care, ensure timely payment for services and navigate through the healthcare system.

Resources
Feeding supplies, travel/lodging assistance, partner cleft/craniofacial organizations, post-operative supply manufacturers and more!

Advocacy
Information on pending federal and state legislation, and how to contact your US and State elected officials.

Meet our families!

Photo Gallery
Newborn and progress photos, introductions, links to family websites, and more!

Featured Families
Personal stories as told by parents and persons with clefts and other craniofacial anomalies, including fabulous photographs. The spotlight shines on new families monthly!

The Pathfinder Program

How many times have you thought...

"I wish I had known
about this website three years ago."

"If only I had someone to talk to after my baby was born...someone who understood what I was going through."

The Pathfinder Program is designed to address these issues on a local basis and is overseen by the most important member of your child's cleft/craniofacial team...YOU!

You are never alone...

The Family-To-Family Connection!
Whether you have questions about feeding, surgery, speech therapy, social issues or battling your insurance company, chances are you'll find all the information you need right here!

This e-mailing list is funded through a grant from the US/DHHS/Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCH NetLink Plus # U93MC00036-011) and is coordinated by the Center for Policy and Program Affairs at the Institute for Child Health Policy (www.ichp.edu).

And there's more...

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A Cairdeas doll has a scar exactly like its child friend!
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