

Hearts United: Inspiring friendship blossoms in physical therapy

OSF HealthCare Newsroom

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BROADCAST SCRIPT

ANCHOR INTRO

WHAT STARTED AS A HAPPENSTANCE – TURNED OUT TO BE A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP.

TAKE VO

MEET PARKER KLEIN AND ELLIOTT **WEE-DOFF** WIDOLFF– A PAIR OF TWO-YEAR-OLD BUDDIES – GOING THROUGH PHYSICAL THERAPY TOGETHER AT FIVE POINTS WASHINGTON.

WHILE MEETING OVER A YEAR AGO WASN'T PLANNED – THEIR WEEKLY DATES ARE NOW SOME OF THEIR FAVORITE TIMES OF THE WEEK. THE TWO CHILDREN BOTH HAVE DOWN SYNDROME – AND EACH OF THEIR MOMS SAYS P-T IS BENEFICIAL FOR MUCH MORE THAN JUST THE PHYSICAL ASPECT.

TAKE SOT

COURTNEY KLEIN – MOTHER OF PARKER KLEIN "They've always had physical therapy together on Tuesdays for the last year or so. They've grown a bond and love seeing each other, saying hi and giving kisses."

ELIZABETH WIDOLFF – MOTHER OF ELLIOTT WIDOLFF "It's absolutely wonderful for him to be in communication and interacting with a kid of his own age. It doesn't need to be with someone with the same diagnosis, or the same diagnosis at all. They definitely feed off of each other, which is nice. It's also great to be in the community with another parent, so that way we see we're not the only ones going through the attitude that comes with that extra chromosome. Because that's all it is, it's pure spice."

VO TAG

ELLIOTT AND PARKER'S PHYSICAL THERAPISTS – SAUNDI PUGH – SAYS THE TWO CONSIDER IT MORE AS THEIR WEEKLY DATES. AS ELIZABETH WIDOLFF SAYS – SEEING HER SON GROW EVERY WEEK IN ALL FACETS OF LIFE HAS BEEN A BLESSING. IT'S AN ADDED BONUS THAT NOW ELLIOTT HAS A "LITTLE GIRLFRIEND" TO EXPERIENCE IT WITH.

VO/SOT #2

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TAKE SOT

SAUNDI PUGH – PEDIATRIC PHYSICAL THERAPIST | OSF HEALTHCARE

"We also work on moving between positions. That's why climbing on the slide ladder can help them get some strength in their legs. Sometimes on the swing we can get some sensory experience, get them alerted," Pugh says. "Kids with Down Syndrome tend to be a little more on the lower muscle tone side. So, if we can bounce them on a ball and get them excited, that helps alert them a little bit so they can do more things gross motor."

VO TAG

PUGH SAYS PARKER AND ELLIOTT SEE EACH OTHER AS BEST FRIENDS – OR EVEN THAT THEY'RE DATING. AND THAT DOING PHYSICAL THERAPY TOGETHER – MOTIVATES THEM BOTH... ON THIS JOURNEY OF LIFE.