

Family and Friends of Mark Petchey

Time flies.

I can't believe it is winter, again. Next year, Mark becomes 33! But we are all well and keep the roof above us.

The big news this year was a visit by Bill Pike from HongKong. To my surprise, he was a very American from Scottish Society in HongKong. He was not like those I met over 30 years ago in HongKong. It was a very short visit and all we could do was to bite sandwich on the backyard in a cool (always here) mid-summer's day together with Mark and his caregiver, Juliana. I am grateful for him to make this big reach to meet us during his business trip in South Bay area.

From spring, Mark got approved to seek out his communication device by Medi-CAL. The resource is CTEC in Sacramento. We commuted to Sacramento for several times so far. We are still working the best method.

Meanwhile his physical exercise is really exciting. Here is some pictures on his voicing practice as well as standing. His therapist, Letha recently published her own book – the title is Dragons & Daisies. Not only she is a skillful therapist for physically handicapped, she is an expert for autism children. Here is some excerpts from her journal on the recent session.

Check out her website, too.

www.occupationaltherapy-letha.com

Last of all, Mark and I wish you the best ever year end and the new year with your family and friends. You keep us alive and focusing to our future.



Mark seen at BI. We began with preparing the mouth for articulation with chewy, carmel filled waffle wafers. Mark especially enjoyed this part. Some liquid to clear his mouth was also well received with good control and little leakage. His usual round of vowels with words like "wow, how" and the addition of "what" were fairly typical. His jaw has a stuck point in open, that OT repeatedly relieved. The more difficult front and back of mouth sound were mostly met with Mark declining the attempt. OT sees this as a sense that he cannot do it (overwhelmed), or is too fatigued. It is most effective to honor a client's choice at such times.

Though initially, client declined standing, he came around to a willingness and the following pictures show his ability to stand briefly, balancing without assist from OT. HE is leaning on the table of his standing from the outside, rather than supported in it. OT is building client's ability to balance with a distant hope of being able to use a stable walking device.



Mark saying "A"



Mark saying "O"



Mark standing, briefly, as he leans



Mark laughing