

# #ThinkABILITY

COLLIN MATHIEU

Collin Mathieu is a happy 14-year-old teenager. During the first half of his life, it was very difficult for our family to attend church, birthday parties, and family gatherings including school activities in a large environment due to his sensitivity to sound. Oftentimes, others would comment on his constant crying and stare at us, but, as his mother, I did not let that stop us then or now to include him in any and every aspect of social activities. At times Collin may resist, but by using various strategies as well as having patience we continue to learn and endure.

Collin started walking at 5-years-old and continues to do so. Still, there are times he has falling accidents; some which have resulted in physical injuries. My husband and I reassure Collin and his younger brother that it's okay, you just need to take a deep breath, dust yourself off, and get back up.



"CAN'T" is not a  
part of our  
vocabulary.



As his parents, we will continue to have Collin actively participate physically and socially despite having a severe communication deficit and sensitivity to sound. He has the ability to **"DO"** just as me and you; It may be in a different manner and sometimes with the support of an adult. The word **"CAN'T"** is not a part of our vocabulary. Everyday Collin continues to make progress and reach his goals whether in school, at home, and in the community.

He is.....

C - Charismatic

O - Our oldest

L - Loving

L - Lively

I - Impressive

N- Nice



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#Think**ABILITY** is a month long social media campaign to celebrate the accomplishments of individuals with disabilities. The campaign is coordinated by Families Helping Families of Jefferson and held annually during the month of **March**. Learn more about it at <http://fhfjefferson.org/whats-going-on/special-events/thinkability>

**Changing Lives. Every Day.**