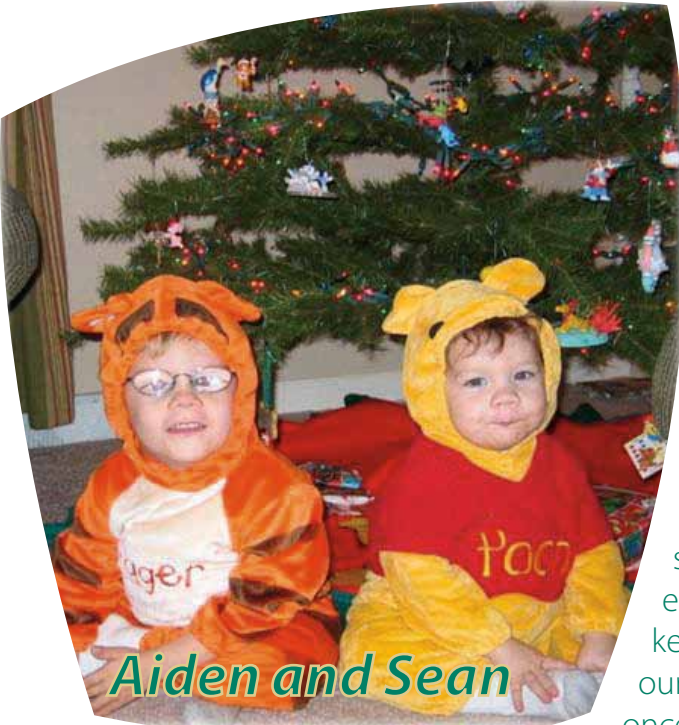


# Spotlight on Aiden



*Aiden and Sean*

Aiden Riley came into the world 2 weeks early at 9:02 p.m. August 7 weighing in at 7lbs. 10 ozs. and 20.5 inches long. Suspecting he may have congenital cataracts, two weeks after Aiden was born we took him to a highly recommended ophthalmologist at Children's Mercy. We knew there was a 50/50 possibility from family history but it was something that had not shown up on the ultrasound. The doctor confirmed our suspicions and scheduled surgeries to remove the cataracts. The procedure of removing cataracts in young children is different than that of adults. Instead of scraping the cataracts off the lens the doctor removed the lens in Aiden's eyes. We thought we were out of the woods, but after his second surgery Aiden was diagnosed with infantile glaucoma in his right eye. He underwent multiple surgeries in the first year of his life to keep the glaucoma under control and Children's Mercy became our second home. After his cataract surgeries we put contacts in once a week. The trick to that was not only getting them in but making sure they stayed in. As he got older it became more difficult to

do both of those things and the cost to replace lost contacts began to add up and we decided to get Aiden his first pair of glasses when he was around a year old. Our pediatrician also set us up with the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired and First Steps. His first year Aiden stayed home with a babysitter or Grandma depending on the day and received Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech, and Vision Instruction. Around Aiden's first birthday I found out I was expecting again. Sean Patrick joined the family in March and I stayed home with both boys until August. That is when Aiden started at NEEC in the Brown Room and Sean in the Pink Room. Aiden had just turned 2 and was not very verbal. Within 6 months of attending NEEC, his language exploded and he was talking in sentences. He was learning so much from both the staff and his new friends. Everyone at the center was very welcoming and supportive. I knew that Aiden and Sean were in great hands. I would hear comments at work about other preschools and felt very blessed and reassured that the boys were where they needed to be. Aiden is now in the Orange Room and Sean is in the Yellow Room. Where does the time go? Aiden receives services at the North Kansas City Early Childhood Center in the mornings during the school year and gets to ride on a big yellow school bus to NEEC with some of his friends from the Orange and Blue Room. NEEC has become an important part of our family and I can't express enough our thanks and gratitude to both the staff and families for all the great memories and friendships.