

## Sidney's Story

Shannon Desilets, PT, MNRI® Instructor and Core Specialist, Pembroke, NH, and Sara Christensen, MNRI® Parent, Hillsborough, NH, USA



This is Sidney's story, as shared by her mother, Sara Christensen, in early 2012: "Sidney was born with a large cancerous tumor on her spine, compressing all the nerves to her lower body, paralyzing her. She underwent major back surgery at 9 days old and then chemotherapy to remove the mass. She was left with no signs of feeling or movement in her legs, and she was basically going to be wheelchair-bound. We set out to find the best therapist for her, someone that was going to be motivated and wasn't going to give up on her. We met Shannon, an MNRI® Core Specialist, a year and a half ago. When she started working with her, Sidney was almost one, and she couldn't



Shannon Desilets

crawl, she couldn't feel her legs, she couldn't bare any weight, and she could barely kick at her knees. Sidney is already doing so much more than the doctors expected, and I truly believe that this therapy has played a huge role in this. It's amazing to see her become aware of parts of her body that she hasn't been able to feel or move, and it is amazing to see them awoken right before our eyes. She now shows signs of some sensation in her feet. She has learned to crawl, stand, and, with braces, she can now walk. She leaves her walker behind her most of the time, and she loves to run to Daddy."

Sidney update, as shared by Shannon, April 2014:

Running, maneuvering over/around obstacles, and even dancing are now parts of Sidney's daily everyday life. A video of Sidney ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=9x\\_ZQ8zeWos](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9x_ZQ8zeWos), photo at left) dancing along to Amy Purdy of *Dancing with the Stars* recently went viral. Amy Purdy, who has prosthetic legs, also saw this and spoke of Sidney on a recent *Access Hollywood* airing. Sidney has now been invited as her guest to attend *Dancing with the Stars!*



Sidney dancing in the You Tube video.



*To Sidney: you are one of my heroes on this earth. You teach me all is possible, to never give up, and you are a shining star. To Sara and Scott Christensen, thank you for entrusting me with the care of Sidney, and thank you for your strength, hearts, and dedication for Sidney. Your courage and perspective are of such integrity and genuine heart. You are remarkable parents of a remarkable little girl! – Shannon Desilets*