



Charity steps in to help Taylor (aged eight) towards better quality life

A YOUNG girl from St Athan living with a life shortening illness has had her life changed thanks to a national children's charity.

Taylor Tyrer, aged eight, lives with Rett Syndrome, a life threatening neurodevelopmental disorder that has left her with a number of conditions including epilepsy, severe learning difficulties and Scoliosis (a curvature of the spine).

As a result, Taylor needs 24 hour care from her parents, Sandra and Carl, and requires a large amount of specialist equipment including a hospital bed, sleep system, wheelchair and specialist seat.

However, to add to the already grave concerns over her health, her family were recently dealt a huge blow when it became clear that Taylor's condition was affecting even the simplest pleasure's she enjoyed from life.

Sandra said: "Taylor cannot really take part in many activities, so one of the few things she really loves doing is simply sitting together with the family.

"She would sit happily in her wheelchair or specialist seat as these give her the support she needs; but as her condition is getting worse it reached the stage where she couldn't even do this for long periods and would cry out in discomfort and pain.

"This was so devastating for all of us and we knew that we had to find a solution."



ABOVE:
Eight year-old Taylor Tyrer.

With the family aware that Taylor had been enjoying the use of a P Pod Bean Seat at her school, they contacted Taylor's Occupational Therapist for advice.

Though they were delighted to hear that this supportive yet incredibly comfortable specialist seat would perfectly meet Taylor's needs, the family then faced the predicament of finding almost £700 needed to purchase it; a sum that Sandra and Carl, full time carers of Taylor and her four young siblings, Morgan aged 10, Jayleigh aged four, Leon aged three and Daisy aged one, simply did not have.

The Occupational Therapist recommended React, a children's charity that provides equipment and support to children with

potentially life-shortening illnesses throughout Wales.

React was not only able to help with the seat – it was also able to replace the family's old, worn fridge freezer, which was vital for storing Taylor's medication.

Sandra said: "We really want to give Taylor the best life possible so were absolutely over the moon when React told us they would be able to help with the new seat."

React hopes to be able to make a difference to every child that needs its help.

Anyone caring for or knowing of a child that may need React's assistance, please contact the React team on 020 8940 2575.

To find out more about React visit www.reactcharity.org.