

Gift helps boy breathe easier



Thomas Pearce

A YOUNGSTER with a rare life limiting condition has been given a boost of independence.

Three-year-old Thomas Pearce from Llanfairfechan has Pfeiffer's Syndrome, a condition which causes abnormal skull growth and can lead to breathing difficulties.

Last week the energetic youngster, who has a tracheostomy tube inserted into his windpipe, was presented with a portable suction machine to aid breathing by children's charity, React. Over his lifetime he has incurred serious breathing problems and has had seven operations.

Thomas' father Andrew said he and his wife Nicola, who are keen walkers, desperately wanted their son to enjoy family outings like other children his age, but could not afford the cost of a more portable machine. Although they already have a suction machine, it was not portable or easy to carry.

He said: "Once we had applied, the next thing we knew a cheque had come through the door. It was a surprise and great news for Thomas."

When Thomas was born doctors

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were immediately concerned about his health. He was transferred to Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool, where a specialist team could determine a medical diagnosis. Within three days, paediatricians diagnosed Pfeiffer's Syndrome.

Last year The Pioneer reported how Thomas took part in the annual Santa Run in Llandudno to raise money for children's hospice, Ty Gobaith. Despite feeling ill on the day, he finished the race and raised £230 for the cause.

Thomas has now started playschool and mother Nicola has been given peace of mind her son has all the specialist care he requires and will be given the opportunity to take part in normal activities.

Nicola, 34, said she can carry the handheld suction machine whenever she takes Thomas out. She said: "We cannot thank React enough for their kindness in purchasing a portable suction machine for us. This will make a huge difference to our daily activities with Thomas."