

# Meet Lee...

On March 26, 2020 our lives changed forever; there we were sitting in the NICU and learned that our first daughter may never eat or walk on her own. I thought to myself how can you say this so cavalier, as I starred at the doctor telling us this tragic news. The social worker came in later and asked us what we were going to do for daycare, we had no answer. Later in the conversation she said we should look at in home daycare because most daycares would not be able to handle her condition. She had been diagnosed with Trisomy 13, which is often considered fatal. Since I worked at West High and we already had an application to go to the Infant Center through Crittenton Center, I decided to call them right away. Immediately Erika told us they would be able to take our daughter (Sloane) and handle whatever they needed to do. I can't explain how much of a relief that was for my wife and I, as we have no family in the area. We simply had moved to Sioux City for our careers, and were raising a family on our own. Luckily we found out later that it was Trisomy 13 Mosaism, one of the most rare conditions on earth. She was able to take a bottle after a week, and was able to leave the hospital two weeks later. We still face delayed learning and speech, but feel blessed considering our original diagnosis. Sloane is now a three year old and runs into the Crittenton Center every morning with the biggest smile and giggle on her face. At the end of the day she is often up front with the staff playing games, or sitting with a favorite sucker in her mouth. As Sloane has moved from the Infant Center to Stella the care has remained the same. When our second daughter (Shay) was born a year and a half ago, there was little doubt we would choose the Crittenton Center again. We are truly grateful for everything the Crittenton Center has done for our family and will continue to do.

**-Lee Irvine, Crittenton Center Child Care parent**