**FINAL**

**Children’s Centre in Tunbridge Wells OFFERS PIONEERING TREATMENT TO Irish Boy with brain injury**

Starjumpz Children’s Centre in Tunbridge Wells, has been offering intensive therapy over the past two weeks, to a remarkable three year old boy from Ireland who suffered catastrophic brain damage as a result of complications arising from a routine operation two years ago.

Jude Miley and his parents Ann-Louise and Greville from Dublin, have been staying in the town and visiting the centre in Speldhurst Place on a daily basis, to enable Jude to have combined Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Neurofeedback over a two week period.

Jude’s time at Starjumpz follows various programmes of rehabilitation treatment in the United States as well as the UK, including time at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the world’s leading brain-injury rehab unit. Starjumpz is the first place to offer Jude the acclaimed Neurofeedback treatment and the first known place in the UK to offer this treatment combined with other therapies.

Joanna Brett, Director of Starjumpz commented: “We’ve had a team of experts working with Jude and his family over the past two weeks, including Educational Psychologist and Neurofeedback Practitioner Joanne Buttle and Consultant Paediatrician Dr. Georgie Siggers as well as a nutritionist and medical herbalist. It has been exciting to witness first-hand the progress he has made in only two weeks.

“Combining Neurofeedback treatment with intensive therapy increases the efficacy of therapy and accelerates progress. Jude came to us with five to ten words, he now has in excess of sixty and is combining two to three words. He is showing interest in pencil skills, copying lines, building blocks, completing puzzles and using special scissors to snip paper, all of which he could not do before. He is more confident with motor skills and his sensory processing is improving. He was sensitive to vestibular input, being afraid to go on swings. Now he is starting to enjoy this activity which is improving his balance and spatial awareness.”

Jude’s mother, Ann-Louise, said: “It’s been fantastic to see Jude’s response to the therapies offered at Starjumpz. There aren’t places like this in Ireland, so it is vital that we travel to get the help we need for him. He’s responded well to the Neurofeedback, which we’re convinced has made him more restful at night and more amenable during the day, helping his concentration for learning. We are so grateful to all at Starjumpz and plan another trip back here in six months’ time.”

Starjumpz offers pioneering services and treatments to children with learning, developmental, motor and behavioural challenges. The centre can diagnose, treat and support children with difficulties such as ASD, ADHD, Sensory Processing Disorder, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia. It is the only centre in the South East to offer Neurofeedback treatment, in combination with other intensive therapies.

A natural treatment, with no harmful side-effects, Neurofeedback utilises the brain's own learning ability and neuroplasticity to train the brain to regulate itself better. The treatment can help a variety of childhood problems including ASD, ADHD, Dyslexia, dyspraxia, anxiety and numerous forms of disruptive and disturbing behaviours. It is also available at the centre to adults struggling with anxiety and depression or drug and alcohol use, migraines or PTSD.

Starjumpz is hosting an Open Evening on 2 October from 19.00-21.30. The event is open to parents, teachers and health professionals who would like to learn more about its services including Neurofeedback. For more information, visit [www.starjumpz.com](http://www.starjumpz.com) or call 01892 510 257 to reserve a place.

ENDS

For more press information, including interviews and high resolution photography to accompany the story, please contact Sarah Jones on barnesy\_78@tiscali.co.uk or 07775 582 497.

**Notes to Editors**

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Starjumpz History: Starjumpz Chidren’s Centre has a 25 year history of providing Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy for children in the South East, having been established by Jill Christmas in 1989 as the Christmas Children’s Clinic. Collaboration with London’s leading sensory integration centre, Hopscotch of Harley Street, led in 2011 to the establishment of the Starjumpz Centre as it is today. Starjumpz is co-directed by Joanna Brett (OT) and Dimitrios Mylonadis (OT & Director of Hopscotch).

Jude’s story: For the first six months of his life, Jude was a perfectly normal baby, despite being born nine weeks prematurely in July 2011. It was then that Ann-Louise who is a public health nurse realised he wasn’t putting on weight, despite feeding well. An X-ray at their local hospital revealed that his diaphragm was pushing the other the other way than it should have been, causing him to function on a third of his lung capacity. Known as an ‘eventration of the diaphragm’ the family and medics decided to undergo corrective surgery and it was two days after the operation that complications occurred. It took the Doctors 50 minutes to resuscitate him, during which time he was deprived of vital oxygen to his brain.

After the incident, Jude started seizing which is when it was decided an MRI of his brain would be carried out. The scan revealed that the entire brain, apart from the brain stem, had been affected. Had the brain stem been affected, then Jude would have been ‘locked-in’. His family were basically told that he wouldn’t survive.

But after receiving palliative care at the hospital, Jude was taken off the ventilator and to everyone’s amazement he kept breathing. The Jude Miley Trust was set-up and funds raised which has enabled Jude to receive vital brain rehabilitation treatments in at various centres worldwide. For more information on The Jude Miley Trust or to donate, visit [www.thejudemileytrust.org](http://www.thejudemileytrust.org).

Neurofeedback: Neurofeedback is a natural treatment with no harmful side-effects, it utilises the brain’s own learning ability and neuroplasticity to train the brain to regulate itself better. This optimises mental performance and emotional control.

In October 2012, the American Academy of Paediatrics gave Neurofeedback their top evidence based rating as an intervention in the treatment of Attention and Hyperactivity Behavioural Problems such as ADHD.

Neurofeedback treatment is widely used in the US and paid for by insurance companies as an effective treatment for ADHD, and is a safe alternative to drugs such as Ritalin.