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'SO FAR, THERE'S NOTHING SHE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO'

BEING BORN WITH A LIMB
DIFFERENCE HASN'T
SLOWED DOWN
4-YEAR-OLD QUINN MUIR

TAMARA BOTTING
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If there's something she wants to do, Quinn Muir will find a way.

The four-year-old from Hannon was born a left arm amputee.

"(She) was born this way, so for her, it's more about figuring out how to do things. So far, there's nothing she hasn't been able to do," said mom Stephanie Muir. "She just does it in the best way that works for her."

Stephanie said that when she and her husband, Alistair, found out while she was pregnant that Quinn had a limb difference, "we

were devastated, because we were worried about what she would and wouldn't be able to do."

There was no genetic finding or illness to cause Quinn's limb difference; "it was just a fluke situation," Stephanie said.

"A lot of parents do (go through) a grieving period when they find out," she said. "But once you hold your baby, it all goes away ... Nothing went wrong. It just went different."

The Muirs have connected with a lot of other families through the War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) program, and that has helped them realize they're not alone. It's also helped them share their experiences with others.

At the start of the school year, Quinn - with the help of CHAMP

See 'NOTHING', page 5



Tamara Botting/ Metroland

Quinn Muir was born a left arm amputee. She has several attachments for her prosthetic to allow her to participate in different activities thanks to the War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program.

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'NOTHING WENT WRONG. IT JUST WENT DIFFERENT'

Continued from front

graduate Camila Rusiecki-gave an amputation awareness presentation to the kindergarten classes.

Another big thing the organization does is "they cover the cost of the sports and recreation limbs," Stephanie said.

Quinn's extracurricular activities have included swimming, dance and gymnastics, and she's getting attachments for lacrosse and skipping rope.

She also loves going to the park.

"We have to have prosthetics made quite often to keep up with her growth," Stephanie said. These cost several thousand dollars, and the different attachments can be an additional \$400 to \$600 each.

While "she's adapted to the world without (her prosthesis)," Stephanie said that it's important for Quinn to use it, as she

could damage her spine if she's always trying to compensate for the different lengths in her reach.

While there is a greater awareness in general, there are still times when people stare at Quinn or make rude comments.

War Amps has provided coaching to Quinn and her family, offering different strategies on how to respond.

"What do you say if someone says your arm is weird?" Stephanie asked

**THE ISSUE: CHILD AMPUTEES
LOCAL IMPACT: THE WAR AMPS CHILD AMPUTEE (CHAMP) PROGRAM OFFERS SUPPORT AND PROSTHETICS TO CHILDREN WITH LIMB DIFFERENCES**

Quinn.

"It's not weird to me," she said.

And if someone says you can't do something because of your arm?

"I can," Quinn answered with a look and tone that said it was silly to suggest there would be something she couldn't do.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY

We were contacted after Quinn Muir, 4, gave an amputation awareness presentation to her classmates.



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