**Lily Grace’s story –transcript**

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

Lily Grace was premature, she was born at 36 weeks so she was a tiny, tiny little thing. We’d just been discharged and we were getting her ready to get her home, and she just… her eyes rolled back and she had like a… well she had a seizure.

The only diagnosis we were getting was ‘failure to thrive’ and I remember saying to my husband that she’s got a squint or there’s something wrong with her eyes.

She’d had significant brain damage, she had optic nerve atrophy, she has nystagmus.

I wanted mainstream for her, I couldn’t get my head around the idea of a special school.

**Lily Grace:**

Hello!

**Teacher:**

Come and have a seat.

Pop your cane away.

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

So, as it stands she accesses every part of the curriculum.

**Teacher:**

Ok?

**Lily Grace:**

Yep!

**Teacher:**

What would Walter like us to do today?

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

She’ll go then with her other teacher and tehn do her braille.

**Walter (the kangaroo):**

Good afternoon Lily Grace! Today we are focussing on reading “I” and “d” in words. Let’s see how we can do.

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

She loves learning braille, she’s really hungry to learn but she is struggling unfortunately because of her cerebral palsy which was another diagnosis. She’s struggling to type braille and read it.

**Teacher:**

Are you ready?

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

She keeps trying, she doesn’t give in.

**Teacher:**

Are you steady?

**Lily Grace:**

Yup!

**Teacher:**

Go with “I”

**Lily Grace:**

Easy!

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

The love of books, the smell of a book, the going to the library and getting a book. To just pick up a book and be abel to read it is, is a lovely thing in life that everybody should experience. Without braille that’s never going to be accessible to her.

**Teacher:**

One minute 39 is a record, that’s your fastest yet! Well done.

**Lily Grace:**

 (Laughs)

**Driver:**

Beautifully done!

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

Well done

**Lily Grace:**

 (shrieks with delight)

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

Right, bag on your shoulder, shall we do bag on the shoulder?

**Lily Grace:**

No mum, I can’t do that.

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

She’s so sharp, she’s so on the button.

**Lily Grace:**

I see Dad’s not home then.

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

No, Dad’s not home.

**Lily Grace:**

 (knocks on the door)

Is Charlie here?

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

He is.

**Lily Grace:**

I love going to school. I love going to school don’t I mum?

**Lily Grace’s mum:**

Yes you do.

**Lily Grace:**

I love it.

**Voiceover:**

Why do you love it?

**Lily Grace:**

Yep, I love it because, because I can do Maths and English and ai don’t have to, I don’t have to do any boring stuff like… um… likie watching my mum and dad’s favourite TV shows or something.

**Voiceover:**

To find out more visit rnib.org.uk/dotsraiselots

**RNIB.**

Supporting people with sight loss.