

Patrick and Eric's story

Eric has a severe physical disability, but that didn't stop Patrick from becoming his foster carer. With support, Patrick manages all of Eric's care needs and he loves being a foster carer.

Patrick stated that becoming a foster carer has been a worthy challenge that has taken him out of his comfort zone.

"In the beginning it was hard as I had never cared for a child with a disability, however it didn't take me long to adapt and build a strong relationship with Eric." "I learned how to make him laugh, what games he liked to play as well as learning what he didn't like."

Eric is a wonderful child who loves to listen to music and enjoys being outdoors, despite his disability he is a happy child who brings joy to everyone he meets.

Caring for any child is hard but it is especially difficult to care for a child like Eric who was born with multiple disabilities. "Eric and I have a lot of medical and specialist appointments to attend and also Eric's day-to-day care needs are time consuming."

This has just become a part of Patrick's life and he feels as though meeting these needs for Eric is only one step in providing him with the future he deserves.

While there been difficulties I have overcome them one at a time, Patrick stated that he is now feeling very comfortable and confident in his role as a Specialist Foster Carer.

"With the ongoing support I receive from UnitingCare Community you never feel like you have no one to turn to when times are hard, the staff are always on hand to answer any questions and it is clear that they have Eric's best interests at heart."

