

My Bushey News

The voice of your Community

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Rio is sitting comfortably thanks to DEMAND

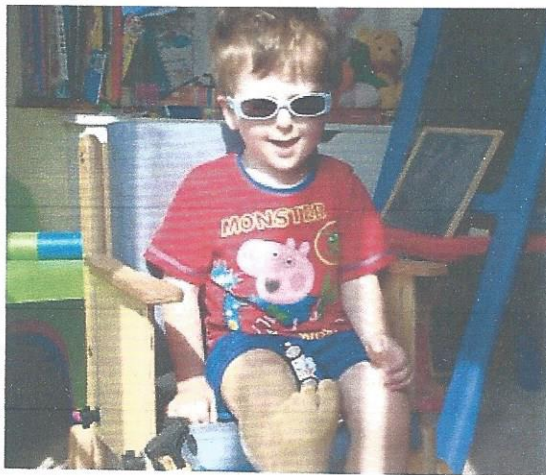
A leading charity has helped change the life of a four-year-old born with a severe leg disability.

Rio Woolf, from Bushey Heath, was born without a tibia (shinbone), knee or ankle joint in his right leg and is forced to wear a prosthetic limb in order to get around. As he is too young to have prosthetic joints fitted and the four-year-old is unable to bend his right leg- making it difficult for him to sit down comfortably.

In order to fix the problem Abbots Langley-based disability charity DEMAND have created two tailored leg supports for Rio to use at home and at school. Costing £500 each, the supports will allow the Bushey Heath boy to sit comfortably while reducing the risk of further injury.

The charity also previously created custom-made steps to allow Rio to get into the bathtub more easily. The inspirational four-year-old has also previously been featured in *Assistive Technologies* magazine with a brand new carbon-fibre blade.

"It was really difficult for Rio to sit comfortably without the supports," DEMAND regional fundraising manager Denise Gillies told *My Bushey News*. "He needs them to get around better at home and at school. You spend most of the day sitting down so it is very important to get it right. Using alternative props may not have been supportive in the right areas.



Rio Woolf, four, was born without a tibia, knee or ankle joint in his right leg

"It is good as they will prevent further harm and damage when he sits down," she added.

DEMAND runs two sites, one in Abbots Langley and another in Yorkshire, despite a small team of 20 staff. The charity's engineering and design expertise allows them to manufacture bespoke equipment that helps people with disabilities. Equipment is produced regardless of disability, injury or age.

In order to maintain the level of support it gives across the country the charity is always in need of support and donations. Anyone wishing to donate can send a cheque to DEMAND, The Old Chapel, Mallard Road, Abbots Langley, WD5 0GQ or online by going to <http://bit.ly/Q77BXb>

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