



## **Nebo School District—Beamz Inspires Pre-Schooler to Overcome Movement Disability**

Katrina Davenport, Hearing Specialist for the Nebo School District, fell in love with the Beamz at first sight. She was attending the Closing the Gap tradeshow in Minnesota more than a year ago and passed by the Beamz exhibit. “I couldn’t get over this assistive technology device and immediately ran to get our district physical therapist to check it out. Beamz Interactive was running a contest and I encouraged our physical therapist to enter. We were at the airport heading back to Utah when she got the call that she was the winner of a Beamz Professional System.”

As part of a seven-person Assistive Technology Team for the Nebo School District, Davenport and her colleagues work with individual students to help them with communication, writing, reading, speech and physical therapy or any thing they may need to build their skills and meet their IEP goals. Upon receiving a referral by a pre-school teacher, the team set out to assess a 3-year old girl with multiple disabilities.

This young pre-schooler was restricted in using only half of her body and she also has an aversion to touch. Davenport and the physical therapist collaborated on a plan to test her abilities. “We thought, let’s try the Beamz. Interrupting the laser lights would allow her to receive a cause and effect prompting without having to touch or feel anything when interacting with the device,” Davenport added.

The team hooked up the Beamz to an iPad and began to show her how it worked. Once the pre-schooler realized she was activating something to make a sound, she started using her right hand to reach out. She would get really excited and started reaching out more. Davenport added, “Over 20 minutes, we showed her lots of different positions. Then within a moment we noticed her mother’s face light up as the young girl reached for the Beamz with her left hand. This was the first time her mother had ever seen her reach out for anything with her left hand!”

Because of this incredible breakthrough, the Assistive Technology Team has allowed this pre-school class to temporarily use the Beamz in their classroom setting. “The very first thing that stood out to me about the Beamz was the immediate feedback with cause and effect,” said Davenport. “It allows students to realize or understand that they can really manipulate their environment and interact with music. If I was a classroom teacher, I wouldn’t wait for one to make its way to my classroom, I’d purchase one with my own money!”