

FAMILY FOCUS: Brittany and Kelly Maher

"Virtual programs were a lifesaver! Abby loved them and it even gave us a reason to hit pause and join in."

Hear from Kelly, Brittany's mom.

Life was particularly difficult when programs went away. They were doubtful that virtual programs would be able to fill the void. They turned out to be a blessing.

Those first 10 days were pretty hellacious with Brittany because everything was closed. It was so abstract.

I honestly didn't think she could do virtual programs or that it would be meaningful for her. She struggled that first day but once she got the hang of it, seeing the engagement was priceless.

For 6 months we were able to witness the interaction Brittany had with her peers. We were able to watch her navigate programs with her peers, hear her peers get excited when she signs on and hear her participate.

Before COVID, Brittany wasn't able to tell us what she's done during the day at Rec & Roll. We relied on the correspondence from program leaders. With virtual programs, the amazing opportunity for us was to see not only her engage but how the staff spoke to her. It was meaningful even if she wasn't able to engage at the same level of her peers. They differentiated it for her. They



made things possible during very impossible times.

It was such a blessing for us to witness this opportunity to engage that she would not otherwise have. We got to see the investment she made with her peers and thrive while doing it. Virtual programs were a blessing for us. It has been meaningful to Brittany and I loved hearing her engage with her peers.

Kelly Maher, Brittany's mom