

### Sniffy to the Rescue

Our son, Jackson was born with a unilateral incomplete cleft lip and soft palate which was detected via ultrasound at 24 weeks. His lip was repaired at 5 months and his soft palate was repaired at 10 months. These surgeries were performed by Dr. John Meara, at Children's Hospital Boston.

At the time of his lip surgery, Jackson was very much attached to a pacifier, which we had to hold in his mouth most of the time because of the lack of suction due to his palate. After surgery, Dr. Meara said Jackson could suck on the nipple of the Haberman feeder for comfort but could not have his pacifier because it would touch the area where his lip was healing. This worked for Jackson when we were there to hold the Haberman nipple, but when it came to bedtime, we needed another solution. At bedtime he started sucking on the nose of an elephant that he received from his Grammy. My husband, father and I worked together to use the



Jackson with Sniffy



Two Sniffies!

Haberman nipple with the nose of this elephant, Sniffy. The Haberman nipple fit perfectly over Sniffy's nose. First we used rubber bands to attach the nipple, then I sewed the nipple onto the elephant. Success-Dr. Meara loved it and so did Jackson.

In preparation for his palate surgery, we removed the Haberman nipple and cut the nose off the elephant; the nipple would have gone too far back into his palate while it was healing after surgery. So we sewed on a Soothie pacifier to Sniffy's face and Jackson used this before and after palate surgery in September 2008. After surgery, we had to cut the nipple down so there was no chance

of it touching his palate. Soon after palate surgery, Jackson was using a Nuby sippy cup so once again Sniffy got a transformation. Now Sniffy has the sippy cup top sewn on his face.

As you can see, Sniffy has changed to accommodate Jackson's needs. We don't know what we would have done after each surgery without Sniffy. Jackson is now 15 months old and is thriving, with Sniffy by his side. If you would like more information on how to make a Sniffy or if we can help you make one please contact us.

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Taking a Nap



Hooray for Sniffy!