

MyTobii P10 User Story
Freedom to communicate
with the world



Astrid can't stop talking **Nine-year-old Astrid Lorenzen has gained a voice and a brand new way of communicating with her family and classmates.**



After suffering acute lack of oxygen at birth, Astrid Lorenzen was declared dead. But she conquered death, came back to life and is now nine years old. For the past year, she has been able to communicate with her family and the rest of the world in a way unimaginable until now.

– When Astrid came back to life we decided to fight to give her the best life possible, says Astrid's mom Dorte Lorenzen.

Astrid has severe CP due to her birth complication. As a result, she is unable to make herself understood through speech. For the first eight years of her life Astrid communicated by using body language and pointing at pictures in a specially adapted book. Since December 2007, however, she

has used the MyTobii P10 to communicate with those around her.

– The first thing I wrote was “My name is Astrid”. I was happy to be able to say it with my new voice, says Astrid.

Can't stop talking

Dorte remembers the changes that occurred in the family when Astrid started using the MyTobii P10.

– Suddenly we had another girl in the family who was active in discussions around the dinner table, recalls Dorte.

– Sometimes she talks too much, say Astrid's twin sisters with twinkles in their eyes.

– It is so nice for me that she can call me when she is in her room and I am somewhere else in the house. All of a sudden I can hear a voice calling “Mom”, continues Dorte.

Enjoys computer games

It is a rainy day in the middle of November 2008, in Astrid's hometown of Sønderborg in southern Denmark. She lives with her family which includes her Mom Dorte, Dad Willy, thirteen-year-old twin sisters Emma and Ida, and Brum the cat.

Dorte Lorenzen opens the door to their large bungalow. Astrid has just come home from school and is sitting in the kitchen playing the classic computer game Minesweeper. She has always enjoyed playing computer games, but MyTobii has made it much easier for her.

Astrid sits timidly in the safety of her mom's lap. Once her initial shyness wears off she sits in her wheelchair and fixes her eyes on the computer screen. Proudly, she shows what she has written when asked about her equipment: "Good sound, play games and write nicely". A female voice reading the same words resonates from the speakers.

Her parents discovered the P10 by chance at an IT exhibition a couple of years ago.

– We realised immediately the opportunities it could give Astrid to communicate, says Dorte.

At first it wasn't certain that Astrid would get the equipment. Sønderjyllands Amt was initially reluctant and their first answer was that the waiting list for the equipment was too long.

They changed their minds once they realised that Astrid needed the equipment to keep up in school.

Text becomes speech

Astrid is currently Denmark's youngest MyTobii user. She is in third grade and works at the same level as her 22 classmates. She communicates with her peers and answers her teacher's questions by using the computer screen instead of pointing at her red book like she used to. Astrid forms words by fixing her eyes onto letters shown on the screen, which then are converted into speech.

She can also point at the screen with her eyes and access pictures of her classmates. As their photographs appear in rapid sequence Astrid can say all of their names with the computer's voice.

The device has given her a new, easier way to communicate with her classmates. Now she can call them and say exactly what she wants to say.

– Astrid has suddenly become a bigger girl. It's important that she can answer with a voice at home and at school. It's easier for the family now since we can communicate much more naturally than before, says Dorte.

– Before, she was totally dependent on others. These days Astrid is more independent with her MyTobii and can chat, send emails and play games in front of her computer.

Curious about MyTobii

When Astrid's communication device first arrived about a year ago, a number of curious people including her mother, father, assistant, math and Danish teacher all gathered to see it in action.

– We got the equipment working immediately, says Dorte.

When asked what the first thing she did with the MyTobii was, Astrid flashes a big smile and answers "play games."

Astrid has become increasingly better at using the equipment. She is still learning, especially since using complete sentences to communicate is totally new for her. Playing games has been a good way for her to learn how to track with her eyes.

Apart from family and school Astrid leads an active life and manages to both swim and ride once a week. She also has several friends that she plays with regularly.

– The equipment presents great opportunities. In the future Astrid can use it more actively to send text messages, write emails and surf the Internet. Next year we plan to get an electric wheelchair and mount MyTobii on it for Astrid to use in the house. This will allow Astrid to become even more independent and gives her greater freedom to communicate with the world around her, concludes Dorte.

**“All of a sudden
I can hear a voice
calling ‘Mom’”**





MyTobii P10

MyTobii P10 is a portable eye-controlled communication device. Everything, including a 15" screen, eye control device and computer, is integrated into one unit. Just connect it to a power source, such as a wall socket, power wheelchair or separate battery. The device can be mounted for use at a desk, on a wheelchair, in bed or anywhere suitable for the user.

The MyTobii P10 can be relied upon to perform. It operates with a high level of precision in nearly all light conditions. Most different users, regardless of ethnic origin, can be tracked – including those with glasses or contact lenses. You can move freely in front of the screen without having to worry about interrupted tracking or reduced functionality.

Cerebral palsy

Cerebral palsy, CP, means paralysis due to brain damage and is the most common cause of physical disability among children and young people. CP is an umbrella term encompassing a number of different symptoms. A physical disability caused by an injury or developmental disorder in the developing brain is the common denominator.

The injury can occur during pregnancy, during birth or within the first two years. Infections, circulation disorders, lack of oxygen and brain hemorrhaging are the most common causes of CP.

Children with CP have a delayed motor development. The most common result of brain damage is more or less impaired muscle control, but the span is wide. Some children have a minor physical disability while others have absolutely no muscle control. (Source: Swedish Health Guide)

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NORTH AMERICA

Tobii ATl
333 Elm Street
Dedham, MA 02026
Toll-Free: 800-793-9227
Phone: 781-461-8200
Fax: 781-461-8213
Web: www.tobiiati.com
sales.us@tobii.com

EMEA

Tobii Technology AB
Karlsrovägen 2D
S-182 53 Danderyd
Sweden
Phone: +46 8 663 69 90
Fax: +46 8 30 14 00
sales@tobii.com

ASIA

Tobii Technology, Ltd.
3-4-13 Takanawa, Minato-ku
Tokyo 108-0074
Japan
Phone: +81-3-5793-3316
Fax: +81-3-5793-3317
sales.jp@tobii.com

CENTRAL EUROPE

Tobii Technology GmbH
Niedenau 45
D-60325 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Phone: +49 69 24 75 03 40
Fax: +49 69 24 75 03 429
sales.de@tobii.com