



## Congratulations Carl Gerhard!

### 2025 Michigan CEC Yes I Can! Art Winner

Carl is a joyful and determined 4-year-old student at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood Center in Wayne-Westland. Despite the challenges he faces due to FOXG1 Syndrome, which impacts his motor skills, communication, and daily activities, Carl has found a remarkable way to express himself through art.

For Carl, art is a journey focused on exploration rather than just the final product. He uses his hands, feet, and even his head to interact with various textures and materials, fully immersing himself in the creative process. Through these sensory experiences, Carl has developed important skills like hand-eye coordination and spatial awareness. His enthusiastic approach to art demonstrates a passion for learning and a curiosity that inspires everyone around him.

Carl's creativity has also become a pathway for inclusion, allowing him to connect and build friendships with peers in the general education program. Through collaborative art projects and play sessions, Carl continues to break down barriers and foster a sense of belonging in his school community. His journey through art is a testament to resilience, creativity, and the limitless possibilities of a multi-sensory learning approach.

