Zoe's has given us that chance to just take a step back and breathe...

Aj is one of the most brave and strongest boys I have ever met, I'm so proud to be his mother. In the 2 years of his little life, he has been through so much. When Aj was diagnosed with Propionic Acidemia at a week old I was in a state of shock. It was a lot to take in especially being told how rare it is, and that most healthcare professional haven't even heard of it.

Since Aj was born and it has been endless amounts of hospital trips.

From being put in an induced coma at 4 weeks old, his ammonia levels constantly rising and the worst of them all, Aj having a metabolic stroke before his first birthday; all due to his condition.

After the stroke Aj could no longer sit up unaided, lost use of the right side of his body, and no longer eat or drink leaving him to be fed via NG. It was heart breaking to see. Just over a year later, after so much hard work from Aj and the amazing team he has around him, he can now sit up unaided (not perfect but we are getting

there). Aj has started eating food again and within the last 3 weeks, he has started drinking (only in small amounts but a win is a win!).



Aj follows a strict routine, which means you don't really get a lot of sleep. Aj was offered a space at Zoe's place which has been a huge relief. Knowing Aj is in the care of health professionals that have taken the time to learn his routine and condition, it's nice to have a moment to yourself. You know he is being well looked after and that all his needs are being met.

I've seen a huge difference in Aj since going to Zoe's, he has never really had the chance to be around other children and having that time to do so has really brought out the best in him. It's wonderful that he gets to spend time with the other children, socialise, get involved in activities, and have the break that we both need.

Zoe's has given us that chance to just take a step back and breathe which I will be forever grateful for.

Aj and family 💛

