

# Love, Love, Love

*M*elissa wishes that there was no longer a waiting list for the services provided by KidsAbility. She knows the importance of early intervention.

Melissa has cerebral palsy. She began receiving services at KidsAbility when she was one year old. Melissa attended school at KidsAbility and while in school benefited from a wide range of services from KidsAbility’s team of staff and volunteers. “I had to do lots of hard work to improve my fine and gross motor skills but my therapists made it look like play to me and I had so much fun.”

One of the ways in which Melissa’s therapy continued outside the walls of KidsAbility was through parent support and education. Melissa’s parents were taught how to help Melissa do some of the exercises with her at home, as well as how to modify equipment. “I remember how much I loved the parallel bars KidsAbility loaned us. I spent so much time exercising and playing on them with my brother,” says Melissa.

Being named the first ambassador for the 1999–2000 Kids Can’t Wait campaign was a proud moment for Melissa. During that year as the ambassador, she also had the opportunity to provide guest vocals with Erick Traplin for the song “Love, Love, Love” that was featured on his CD released that year called “Kids Can’t Wait...for Your Helping Hand.” “It was a great experience that I will always be very proud of,” Melissa says with a smile.

To this day, these two moments from her days at KidsAbility remain Melissa’s most cherished accomplishments. “As an ambassador, I did many speeches and interviews about how KidsAbility changed my life.”

If Melissa could tell a family at the beginning of their journey at KidsAbility one thing it would be: “Don’t give up. Appreciate every moment.”

Presently, Melissa volunteers at the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory in the gift shop. She goes to a day program at Carousel Dance Centre and she is involved in all aspects of creating a play with her friends. She also goes to a day program at AIM where she participates in their e-waste program to help the environment. She shares, “Please support KidsAbility so that other children can blossom just like me.”



*Melissa Clark*

Kids Can’t Wait Ambassador  
1999–2000