

Peyton Parker Lane Playground: The Stories Behind the Name



Lane McDaniel

Lane Michael McDaniel was born on July 9, 2005, to Brian and April McDaniel at 30 weeks 5 days gestation. While born prematurely at 3 lbs., he was healthy. He came home from the St. Elizabeth's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at 28 days and weighed just over 4 lbs. He was doing all things on his own and came home on no monitors. Just shy of two days after being home, Lane became lethargic. Lane's health went downhill very quickly. Lane was baptized under danger of death and transported back to St. Elizabeth's

Hospital in Lincoln. After days of praying that he'd survive, the doctors determined that he had contracted late onset Group Beta Strep, likely from a bad blood stick while in the NICU. Lane was on all means of life support. His neonatologist, Dr. Hawk, said by all statistics he should not have survived. Lane's parents, Brian and April, believe it was by God's grace that he lived. The GBS caused meningitis and lifelong injury to his brain. Lane was not able to walk, talk or complete daily living activities independently. Lane rose above all challenges presented to him, always greeting each challenge with a contagious smile and giggle.

Brian and April advocated fearlessly for Lane's inclusion in all things, including Catholic School. Supported by McCool Public & St. Joseph Catholic Schools, they were able to successfully make this happen. Lane was included in all things that the McDaniel family did, including riding on the gator, amusement park rides, going to the zoo, hunting, fishing, riding bikes, going to church, attending family gatherings, high school and community events, parades — you name it. Although these events and activities often took some additional planning, Brian and April didn't see that things could be any other way. Lane inspired other children and adults, including Brian and April, to want to help others.

On March 15, 2014, with no warning Lane died in his sleep. Lane had been healthy and had spent the day before with family enjoying Spring Break. The outpouring of love and support following that day continues to be a blessing to the McDaniel family. Brian and April have since founded Living In The Right Lane, a 501c3 nonprofit organization which helps families with children with special needs through prayer, education and monetary donations that they call "Lane Changers." Their motto, inspired by Lane's name, is to spread the message to **Love, Admire, Nurture, Everyday**. Each one of us is given gifts to which we should share with others.

Lane was and continues to be a gift to all those that knew him. The McDaniel family continues to share this gift through Living In The Right Lane and working together with a group of families that have partnered to bring an inclusive playground to York,

Nebraska. The McDaniels are honored to have Lane's name represented in the name of the playground: **Peyton Parker Lane Playground**.

