

Big milestone for little Joshua

Maile Matsimela

When Joshua Noome was born prematurely on October 15, 2004, at the Morningside Medi-Clinic, doctors and nursing staff believed his chances of survival to be very slim.

But that was not the case and

little Joshua celebrated his fifth birthday, last Thursday.

The professionals believed he would not walk nor talk, but today, Joshua is running around and talking.

His mother, Bronwyn Noome, of Morehill, described everything as a "big milestone".

Joshua was born very prema-

turely, at 26 weeks, and weighed only 430g.

Bronwyn said she and husband Glenn have worked really hard with his physio, speech and occupational therapists and have never given up.

However, there is still one challenge facing the Noomes and that is Joshua's feeding.

Due to his severe prematurity and his long eight months stay in Neonatal ICU, Joshua does not know how to drink or eat in the normal way, he uses a gastric-tube inserted into his stomach.

All his hydration and nutrients go through this tube.

Bronwyn and Glenn said they are determined to get Joshua overseas, to a feeding clinic, where skilled doctors

and professionals teach children how to eat and drink.

They have already started raising funds and are hopeful about going overseas at the beginning of 2010.

"Joshua currently attends a special needs school, where his school teachers are amazed at his daily progress," Bronwyn said.

Bronwyn and Glenn further described Joshua as "an incredibly determined little boy with a really lovely personality and nature".

Said Bronwyn: "Joshua has taught me so much in five years, to always believe, have faith and trust." The first eight months of Joshua's life were spent in hospital. He was only three weeks old when he underwent delicate heart surgery known as PDA ligation,

and was one of the smallest premature babies worldwide to have survived the surgery at the time.



Joshua Noome was born five years ago, weighing only 430g, and doctors, at the time, gave him little chance of survival. Today, Joshua is five years old and weighs 14 kg.

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