



happy little boy finds words

JOSEPH Reynolds' eyes light up whenever his speech pathologist Kylee Dwyer is near.

Ms Dwyer is teaching the five-year-old how to communicate using a Dyna Vox.

And she is discovering he has a fantastic sense of humour.

"He can ask questions, relay what he needs and wants and talk about his feelings," she said.

"He is really showing us what a great sense of humour he has."

Joseph, from Moonah, was born with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, a condition that affects his movement.

With Ms Dwyer's help and that

of his parents Marion and Tim, he can communicate with his family, including his little brother Daniel, 18 months, and his classmates at New Town Primary School.

"It's just been a fantastic improvement. He's so much more independent," Mrs Reynolds said.

"He's not as reliant on us to be his voice so much."

Highlighting Speech Pathology Week — August 24-30, Ms Dwyer said Joseph was one of her favourite clients.

"He has an independent streak," she said.

"He makes sure we know what he wants and he's not going to let

his disability stand in his way."

Joseph first saw a speech pathologist when he was 11 months old. His Dyna Vox is programmed with basic vocabulary and concepts such as food choices, places, people, greetings and sentences such as "I love you".

"There is a public misconception that cerebral palsy affects the intellect but it doesn't. It affects movement," Ms Dwyer said.

"Joseph is a bright, witty little boy like any other. Only his movement is affected."



FUN TIME: Joseph uses his Dyna Vox, watched by his mum Marion, left, and speech pathologist Kylee Dwyer. Picture: SAM ROSEWARNE