



# The Family Hope Center

“Where Hope Comes Home™”



## The Galen Family *Case Study*

[www.familyhopecenter.com](http://www.familyhopecenter.com)



## The Galen Family's Story

We are a family blessed with six boys. When our oldest son, Yaakov, was about four and a half years old, he experienced his first seizure. As new parents, we had no idea what was happening — it felt like he was dying right before our eyes.

That terrifying moment launched us into the conventional medical world: dozens of tests, consultations with top specialists, and endless uncertainty. After extensive evaluations, the consensus was that Yaakov's seizures were of "idiopathic origin" — in other words, the doctors simply didn't know why they were happening. Their solution was to medicate him with Tegretol and keep him on it for years, hoping the seizures might stop by the time he reached adolescence.

But the medication transformed our vibrant little boy into a shell of himself. He broke out in rashes, lost his coordination, and became eerily flat — emotionally dulled and vacant, like the spark that made him him had been switched off. It was devastating to watch, and we could not accept that this was the best our son's future could be.

At that critical moment, Divine Providence intervened. A trusted second-opinion doctor, Dr. Bernardo Merizalde, the Family Hope Center's first medical director, shared a radically different perspective with us: Yaakov wasn't suffering from a seizure disorder — he had a brain injury.

The seizures were just one symptom. Dr. Merizalde introduced us to the Family Hope Center, explaining that they could not only assess the injury but also design a treatment plan to help heal it.

Skeptical but desperate for real answers, we enrolled in the Family Hope Center's Parent Training Course. Even before starting the formal program, Dr. Merizalde gave us tools to help engage Yaakov's brain and prevent seizures — techniques that, incredibly, worked even before we attended the training.

At the Parent Training Course, we learned to see the full picture. Seizures were only one manifestation of deeper neurological challenges. Through the FHC's comprehensive assessments, we uncovered other symptoms — like strabismus and auditory processing difficulties — that were all connected to the underlying brain injury.

We committed ourselves fully to the Family Hope Center's program — a treatment plan designed to be carried out entirely at home by parents and caregivers. This wasn't something we could outsource. It required us to reorganize our lives, learn new skills, and become the primary therapeutic team for our son. With a growing family and a newborn in the house, it took everything we had — time, energy, coordination, and faith.



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**But within just a month, we began seeing remarkable improvements. And within a year and a half, Yaakov was completely healed. His seizures never returned. His strabismus resolved. His auditory processing issues cleared. He reintegrated into school without needing special accommodations.**

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The journey from hopelessness to empowerment was nothing short of miraculous.

We went from being told there was “nothing you can do” to seeing, with our own eyes and through objective assessments like the WeeFIM, that the brain can heal with the right support.

Today, Yaakov is thriving. He and his wonderful wife Sharon have three beautiful children. Yaakov has his own social media marketing business, he's a well-known social media figure in the Orthodox Jewish community and he's a professional singer.

And our experience was so transformative that it led us to stay deeply involved with the Family Hope Center — speaking to other parents, serving on the Board, and helping lead the effort to bring this life-changing approach to millions of families by putting the Parent Training Course online and creating an app that empowers families to assess, understand, and treat their child's brain injury at home.

If you're reading this and wondering whether there is hope — there is.

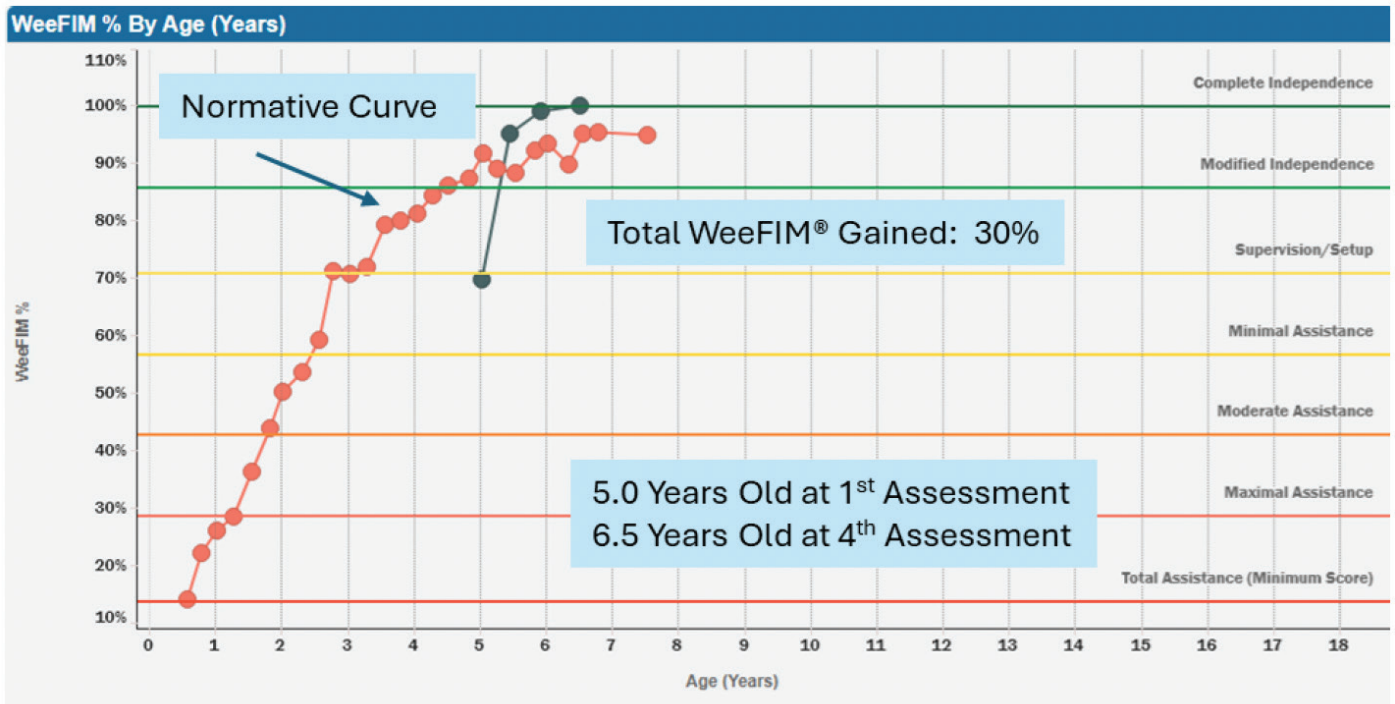
With knowledge, commitment, and the right guidance, true healing is possible.

The Family Hope Center changed our son's life — and ours — forever.



# The Galen Family WeeFIM® Results:

Progress as a function of age compared to children without developmental delays or disabilities.



Helper / No Helper	Category	Rating Descriptor	Rating	Level of Function	
No Helper	Independence	Complete Independence	7	Child safely performs all the tasks without assistance from a helper, within a reasonable amount of time, and without modifications, assistive devices or aids	4th Assessment
		Modified Independence	6	Child performs all tasks without assistance from a helper but requires either an assistive device/aid/prosthesis/orthosis, takes more than a reasonable amount of time, or there is a concern for the child's safety	
Helper	Modified Dependence	Supervision / Setup	5	Child performs all the tasks but requires either supervision without physical contact or setup assistance	1st Assessment
		Minimal Assistance	4	Child performs > 75% or more of the tasks, requiring no more help than touching	
		Moderate Assistance	3	Child performs 50% to 74% of the tasks, requiring physical assistance beyond touching	
	Complete Dependence	Maximal Assistance	2	Child performs 25% to 49%, requiring maximal assistance from a helper	
Total Assistance		1	Child performs <25% of the tasks, requiring total assistance from a helper		