

## Our whole story

The doctor could plan what he wanted, the parents could plan what they wanted, but I did it my way anyway. With my coming into the world a great shock for everyone came along.

There was a joy but also tears in my parents' eyes. Mom was crying and I didn't understand why? Is this happiness? And so I shouted at her: "Hello, it's me! Your Erik!" But my mother did not answer me. All I heard was him saying, "What's wrong with that hand?" Suddenly several strange people in green cloaks gathered above my head. Everyone was touching me and I was crying. I wanted to see my mom. I don't know these people. They keep touching my right hand. What do they want?! Congratulating me on a smooth coming into the world?! And then a good lady took me and gave me to my mother. Finally!

Although my mother was still crying, she kept whispering in my ear: "Welcome to the world, baby boy. You are my treasure, my son. I love you. No matter what happens. We can do everything together." She gave me a kiss. At that moment time stopped and I was sure that everything was good and it would only get better.

Our little Eric was born as a healthy baby, but with a handicap that no one expected. Due to a developmental defect, he has a handicap on his right hand, which ends before the wrist. During my pregnancy, no one mentioned the hand defect to me. Neither did the doctor. Could it be seen?! How is it possible?! Whatever it was, my memories about the birth giving were happy. A little less for those days after giving birth. It was really challenging from a psychological point of view. Instead of us enjoying the happy moments with our healthy baby boy, in the evenings I was asking myself questions. Why me?! Why Eric?! Could I have influenced it?! It's my fault?! What will the solutions be?! Can someone tell me something about what, why and how it happened?!

But then it finally came to me. "The one" knows best which families to send these children to. Eric is smiling and together with my wonderful husband and closest family and friends, we are trying to make him a happy, balanced little boy who does not yet perceive that there is something different. For now, only the ones around him see the difference. Especially children. He's as skilled as other children in his development, although he needs to put more strength, effort and skill into it. But he's still as big a fighter as he was in the womb.