

Success at the Central Florida Regional Demonstration Center

Annette is a 14 year old girl with a diagnosis of cerebral palsy. For years, Annette's parents have tried to find an efficient computer access method for her. This quest has been made more difficult by the limited assistive technology services available to them in their home country of Venezuela. Every few years the family travels to the Tampa Bay area for Annette to be fitted for a new wheelchair. It was during the preparation for this trip that Annette's mom discovered the FFAST Central Regional Demonstration Center through the SmartNav head tracking system website. She contacted our center via email



requesting a demonstration of the latest SmartNav4 AT device. After many months of planning, the family finally arrived at our Demonstration Center at Tampa General Hospital. We placed the small reflective dot on Annette's forehead for the SmartNav4 AT to read, and moments later screams of sheer excitement filled our office as Annette realized she was controlling the computer! Her mother whirled around, face in hands, to catch the tears of joy that were falling. Her daughter had taken one more step towards independence! After a few minutes of practice, Annette was off surfing the Internet and checking out her favorite singer, Marc Anthony, on YouTube.