



Connor James Gengler

October 20, 2017 - July 12, 2023

With deepest sorrow, we announce that our sweet boy, Connor James Gengler, age 5, passed away after a heroic battle against complications of his NEMO deficiency. He passed away at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Bloomberg Children's Center on July 12, 2023.

Those who knew Connor were touched by his light and joy. He had a magnanimous personality that was unwavering and unavoidable. Connor beat to his own drum. He loved being a "Ninja" and playing video games, had the cutest dance moves, loved animals and stuffies, made silly sound effects, loved to move, and shared a love of the outdoors with his parents. He loved to cuddle and read books or tell popcorn stories. He also loved the color green, and anything associated with it including Rocky from Paw Patrol, Yoda and his green light saber, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Luigi, mint, cucumbers, lime bubbly water, and the Grinch. He advocated fiercely for himself and fully embraced the world and all that was good in it.

Although his medical journey was very trying, he handled very difficult emotions by harnessing childhood in the most magical form. He taught those around him the beauty of living in the moment.

Connor will be missed every single day by his father, Ryan Gengler, mother, Courtney Gengler, grandparents, Kenneth Blanchard and Margaret Caldwell and, Keith and Kristen Gengler, great grandmothers, Grace Caldwell, Elizabeth Blanchard, and Karen Gengler, his loving aunts, uncle, and cousins, and many other family members and friends.

We know Connor is now comfortable and at peace. We will love and miss you forever, our Sweet Boy.

To the Depths of My Core (Written by Courtney Gengler)

My dear sweet boy, as I sit here and write,
My mind is reeling, my chest is too tight.
Thinking how we are struck in this sad, scary dream
And wishing and hoping it's not what it seems.
It's hard to fathom this path is right
While your body and mind are snuggled in tight.

I know you are peaceful, much more than before.
As Mommy, I know that's important for sure.
I love you no matter what, always, you see.
And I'm terrified of the permanence that will be.
To miss you running and laughing once more
Always love you deep down to the depths of my core.

I love you, I long for you so very much
To feel butterfly fingers on my palm with one touch.

To feel your nose nuzzled softly on mine.
To hear your voice ring “Mommy” so kind.
And longing to see those soft baby blues
To embrace you and cuddle you all that I choose.

I love you forever my sweet baby boy.
You are my heart, my sunshine, my joy.

In Lieu of flowers, the family asks that any donations be made to the Immune
Deficiency Foundation (IDF)

Ways to Give | Immune Deficiency Foundation (primaryimmune.org)

Tribute Wall

AN

“ *This tree will serve as a reminder of a very special boy who gave so much love to his parents and family in his very short time on earth.* ”

Anonymous - April 26, 2024 at 01:52 PM

AA

“ *Ryan and family- I am so sorry for your loss. Thinking of you all.* ”

Austin Applegate - August 13, 2023 at 08:26 AM

TA

“ *Ryan, I am sorry for your loss. Keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayer.* ”

Timaj Abdella - August 07, 2023 at 07:57 PM

AN

“ *Connor James Gengler* ”

Anonymous - July 29, 2023 at 04:05 PM

MF

“ *There arent enough words to express how sorry we are for your loss. Hugs to your family. You all are in our thoughts. Sending lots of love.* ”

Max Swann and family - July 29, 2023 at 09:28 AM

AN

“ *Connor you were such a beautiful soul and truly one of a kind. We will love you and cherish your memory always and forever.* ”

Anonymous - July 28, 2023 at 06:23 PM

“ Dear Connor, I love you. I am so lucky to have known you and I have so much love for you. You have always been a bright spirit eagerly waking up to greet Mr. Sunshine and never wanting a day to end. Our visits were filled with energetic love and there were always tears when it came time for us to leave. It was like you knew that time together was so precious. I so loved our blessings of moments with you little bug- playing superheroes, making up imaginative stories based on you directing the plot and using your special electric powers to zap the ghosts(thank you so much little man!), enjoying nature hikes, making and dressing up in costumes, water-play, running in the backyard, watching you ride your bike, flying rockets, legos, marble runs, painting, bubbles, Thomas trains, loving on Louis and Maybelline, hiding in your stuffed animal closet, eating Uma’s bread and cheesecake and hugs and kisses. Always lots of smiles, and always lots of nap time snuggle hugs and kisses on our special Tuesdays, just you and me. Singing songs, rocking gently, sharing special glances. And Connor, I loved your beautiful brain! I marveled at your parents and how much you all played together. Your daddy built a giant playhouse, train table, special butterfly garden, vegetable garden and spent hours teaching and romping and playing with you Connor. Mommy was gentle and caring to your special needs and gave you her whole being in kindness, creativity, play and love. They gave you their unified care and attention. You appreciated that love and gave back so much more to them by being you. You were never by yourself when at Hopkins. Either Mommy or Daddy were with you to keep you safe and to bring calm to your world. They truly embraced every moment they were given to be with you on earth. The doctors and nurses loved you and there were many broken hearts in the guard of honor as they said goodbye. You are, and will always be, our Ninja warrior. Your body and soul took on more than any human should endure, yet you somehow rose the next day to greet, embrace and be our beautiful Connor. Babu and I want to celebrate your vibrancy and twinkle for life. Always our happy boy. You are everywhere, you are everything. We step forward being graced with the opportunity to learn from and share in your beautiful time with

*us, teaching our souls that love is deep and will never end.
Some things are forever my dear Connoroo. I love you.
Uma*

Uma - July 25, 2023 at 10:35 PM

ME

“ *My heart breaks for you all. May his memory be a comfort on your darkest days. Sending you love and thinking of you.* ☐

Morgan Cottle Emig - July 24, 2023 at 05:57 PM

AD

“ *Dear Gengler Family: my thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

Anna Dreyer - July 24, 2023 at 10:03 AM

AT

“ Sweet Connor, \nWe are so proud of you. We feel very privileged to have had the chance to know you. There was something that captivated me from the very beginning. I can't quite put my finger on it, but something about you and your sweet family felt extra special. Before I even met you, I was intrigued. \nCan I tell you a little secret? Fisher and I were on a walk one afternoon, we walked past the table and chair area right outside the playroom, ya know the area with the big windows and where they keep the Ez-rollers? \nI saw a little boy sitting across the table from his mom, presumably. They were having so much fun! Fisher kept pulling me in the other direction “mommy, come on! Let's keep walking” But I couldn't help but watch the sweet duo. Thinking to me self wow, look at those two. The little boy was super chatty with her, talking all about the game they were playing. The mother was very engaged as she passed out the cards. Even though it was a busy time of day and people all around, She was locked in on her son, enjoying the time just as much as he. I never saw her gaze shift or move away from the boy. I said to myself, man I really need to step up my mom game. The place could have been on fire and I'm sure she wouldn't have noticed. It stood out to me how fully present in the moment they both were. I wanting to continue taking in that sweet moment, but Fisher finally won and dragged me away. It wasn't long until I figured out who it was. The famous Connor and his mommy! \n\nA week or so later we officially met. You know this better than anyone, but as the days and weeks went on it was evident that you, Connor, are very loved and adored. You always had either mommy or daddy by your side. All the nurses LOVED you. You always had the coolest toys. Even though it's not easy to be a kid in the hospital, you made it look like it was pretty fun! It's like you just picked up childhood and brought it along with you. \nYou have inspired me, sweet boy. Even though I so desperately wish things were different, I want you to know that your time in our life, your heroic battle, was not wasted. We are forever touched by you, Connor. You have a special spot in our play room now. Connor's Collection! We have started collecting ninja turtles and it has been so much fun.\n\nThank you, buddy. Thank you for being the sweetest friend

to Fisher, for sharing your trucks, for your sweet smile, and for living as an example for us all. \n\nLove,\nFisher's mommy 🧡💚

Alisha Trammell - July 20, 2023 at 11:07 PM

DS

“ *My deepest sympathies go out to you and your family; A young life gone too soon!!\n\nDuane Smith and Family*

Duane Smith - July 20, 2023 at 07:47 PM

MC

“ *I'm so sorry that your family is suffering through this incredible loss. May his memory be a blessing for you all.*

Michelle Chudow - July 20, 2023 at 07:02 PM

MN

“ *Conner was an amazing little boy, so brave, cheerful, and full of life. His light will be missed dearly. We are so sorry for your loss Ryan & Courtney*

Matt & Nora - July 20, 2023 at 03:23 PM

MW

“ *Thoughts and prayers for sweet Connor.*

Merrie and Graydon Wood - July 20, 2023 at 02:00 PM

AN

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Anonymous - July 20, 2023 at 09:09 AM

KE

“ Connor embraced his short journey with grace, deep joy, endurance and love. He gracefully started each day with a smile and a hearty “good morning sunshine!” He enjoyed life to its fullest, spreading happiness and laughter to those immediately around while playing with his stuffy toys, super heros, monster trucks and more. He was the director of play and story telling, crafting imaginary games and complicated tales of monsters, ghosts and worlds filled with splashes of color and danger.\n\nHe acted like my super hero because of his endurance, he tolerated injections, numerous medical procedures and endless days in the hospital. His parents gave him childhood experiences and love everyday, without exception. He was never without their love, support and caring. Connor was so beautiful everyone wanted to spend time with him, care for him and, give and receive his love.\n\nConnor was full of love, he expressed and gave love with every encounter. He is forever in our hearts and minds. Connor will be missed but, his lessons and legacy have captivated many people. He taught us all how to live and love.\n\nTo Courtney and Ryan,\n\nYou gave Connor a beautiful life filled with love and compassion. Thank you for bringing him into our lives, so we could love him and embrace him with you. He was a gift to all of us and you were gifts to him.\n\nLove you Babu

Ken - July 20, 2023 at 09:05 AM

AN

“ With our deepest sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Much love Uncle Rick, Aunt Linda and cousin Ricky

Anonymous - July 19, 2023 at 06:57 PM

BM

“ A diamond is rare. But a soul like Connor is a miracle. Like others, I never had the privilege to meet him in person. Yet me, my wife and family have always felt as if we knew him so well!\n\nThe stories and photos shared by his grandparents introduced us to Connor and his special character with such detail, that that we came to know him so well. His zest for life, twinkling smile and optimism. The love he shared and his tender touch; so light and bright, yet leaving an impression on others that is more permanent than a diamond!\n\nThat is a miracle that lives inside us always and forever.\n\nOur deepest condolences and love to Connor’s mom and dad, grandparents and family.

Barry McKently - July 19, 2023 at 06:01 PM

TT

“ Dear Ryan, We are thinking of you during this difficult time. We cannot imagine the pain you are experiencing. Sending heartfelt condolences,

The FI Product Team at TRP - July 19, 2023 at 05:00 PM

JG

“ Although i didn't hold in my arms, always hold you in my heart.

JoAnne Gengler - July 19, 2023 at 02:23 PM

SM

“ May Connor's memory live forever.

Scott and Carol McKently - July 19, 2023 at 11:29 AM

GM

“ I so remember Connor’s second birthday party — the Construction Crew party! It was so artfully conceived, the kids in their orange construction vests, working on important construction projects carefully curated by Ryan. We are devastated by this loss. There was so much promise. And the Genglers made the most of every single day. Tributes to the family for the love and caring they bring to the world. We hope you rest in peace, dear Connor.

Gwenn Marie - July 18, 2023 at 07:46 PM

TH

“ Sweet boy, you and your contagious smile will never be forgotten. Even though the time that we knew you was brief, we are thankful for it.

The Hallsteds - July 18, 2023 at 06:45 PM

KG

“ That’s are no words to share the depth of my sorrow. Connor was my sunshine through some of my darkest days. Connor, you will always be my most favorite person. I love you so much always and forever. Love you to the moon and back ❤️ love, Gigi

Kristen Gengler - July 18, 2023 at 06:09 PM

CT

“ Hugs to you all.

Colton, Janice, Brian Todic - July 18, 2023 at 05:15 PM

AN

“ I knew and loved this Angel of Light through my cousin, Margaret Blanchard. Peace, love and light, Carol Stanton Meier

Anonymous - July 18, 2023 at 09:10 AM

AN

“ I am so sorry that you have to go through this. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Anonymous - July 18, 2023 at 08:21 AM

PJ

“ Remembering the times Connor would Skype with his Gigi while she was at work. It was fun to see this little character that I heard so much about. He had us laughing on those calls, and what a chatterbox! God bless Connor.

Pat Janiszewski - July 17, 2023 at 10:46 PM

AG

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Simplicity Cremation & Funeral Services

A Memorial Tree was planted for Connor James Gengler - July 17, 2023 at 09:27 AM