

## "Echo" to the top

This Christmas we wanted some sun, somewhere not too far away where all of us could have a great time. Finding one location where 6 persons, including a blind toddler, can enjoy themselves is not easy. Here you can read our demands, our choice and the result.

Merlijn and I wished to climb and hike. Enzo cannot clearly say what he wants yet but we assumed that he would enjoy being in nature with lots of animals around so he could enjoy all the sounds. My sister wanted to teach us windsurfing and my parents wished to hike and visit nice villages. One of the options not too far away where all of this is possible is the Spanish island Mallorca. Tickets were quickly bought and after a search on the internet we had also found child friendly holiday houses with chicken in the garden (<https://www.homeaway.co.uk/p6604695>). We were looking forward to it!

The result? Super! The adults saw almost all of their wishes being fulfilled, except for the windsurfing because of lack of wind. But, that is not the topic of this blog. I will tell you what it was like for Enzo.

Enzo had an amazing vacation, and his vocabulary, sensory and motor development with him.

- Feeding the chicken "toktok" and the rooster "kuuke" was a daily thing. Sometimes he found the little ten chicken for us; what about hearing well?!
- Every day he wanted to go into the yard or on the terrace to walk with his push wagon or with a chair. In the meantime he discovered the plants and fruit trees; why do you suddenly touch these?
- The crow "kaakaa" and other birds "coucou" near the climbing crags helped us localize him; why do you suddenly move that much?!
- We can question whether he understands the concept of the sea; anyway, he has enjoyed himself sitting on the rocks or the beach with his feet in the water.
- The cat "mauw" and the dog "oef" convinced him to touch the; while our cats at home always run away they kept calm and waited for him.

The literal and figurative highlight of our vacation was climbing (hiking) the "Matterhorn" of Mallorca, the Puig de Galatzó. This 1027 meter high rock peak stands out against the surrounding green hills. Encouraged by Enzo "allez and hoera" grandpa and grandma reached the top. There we enjoyed a lunch of pancakes and eggs. On the way down it became really quiet, Enzo was sleeping.

The most fun was Enzo finally saying his own name. Dad: "With whom are we here?". Enzo: "Papa, mama en Echooo" (and grandpa, grandma and aunt Kee "oka, oa en Kee").

Text: Laura Steinbusch (corrected by Merlijn)

Soundragment: Laura Steinbusch, Merlijn en Enzo.

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**JUST BLIND  
NOT SHY**

(YOU CAN TALK <sup>SING</sup> TO ME)

My name is **Laura Steinbusch** and together with Merlijn and Enzo I live in Lausanne, Zwitserland. Enzo was born in August 2014 and he is blind because of Leber's Congenital Amaurosis (LCA).