Children with Prader-Willi syndrome generally are very happy, smile frequently, and are pleasant to be around.

Prader-Willi syndrome is a genetic condition that causes excessive hunger, decreased mental capacity, short stature, and weak muscle tone (“floppiness”). Children with Prader-Willi syndrome have an intense craving for food and usually become obese.

-according to WebMD.com

Prader-Willi syndrome is a genetic disorder of chromosome 15. It is sometimes called hypotonia-hypomentia-hypogonadism-obesity syndrome (HHHO). The disorder occurs for unknown reasons.

-according to About.com
Symptoms

- short stature
- genital abnormalities
- excessive appetite
- delayed motor development
- rapid weight gain with marked obesity
- almond-shaped eyes
- characteristically small hands & feet

Treatment

Limiting caloric intake will help prevent the problem with obesity. Growth hormone treatment is also an option. Its benefits include causing accelerated growth and decreasing percent body fat. It has also been shown to improve physical strength and agility in patients with Prader-Willi syndrome.

Parent Resources

- Prader-Willi Alliance: www.prader-willi.org
- Prader-Willi Syndrome Association: www.pwsausa.org