



Delaney

"HER BRILLIANT DOCTORS AT NEMOURS HAVE BEEN AMAZING"



DELANEY'S STORY

When Delaney was born, she seemed completely healthy. But within a few months, her family noticed the way she moved her legs seemed unusual. Delaney's pediatrician took x-rays and ultrasounds of her hips to see if there was a problem, but everything looked normal. By the time she was a little over a year, she was walking and running, and everything seemed fine.

Then, when Delaney was about 18 months old, her family noticed a change: she was limping. But it was minor, she wasn't in pain, and all her tests looked normal. However, things started getting worse and her family felt more and more helpless.

One morning, Delaney woke up screaming. She refused to stand, and her knee was bright red, swollen and warm. Her pediatrician said Delaney should be taken immediately to Nemours. At Nemours, Delaney was diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA).

After they received this news, Delaney's family worked hard to learn about JIA and how to adjust to the challenges of raising a child who has it. Many days it is hard. Delaney's immune system is compromised due to her treatments which can make her very tired during the day. Her legs are weak and she can't always keep up with her peers. As part of Delaney's ongoing treatment, she also has frequent eye checks because JIA can cause symptomatic eye inflammation that can lead to blindness if untreated. She also goes to physical therapy regularly to stretch her knees and ankles and work on strength and stamina.

"Living with JIA has not been easy; it affects the whole family. Delaney is such a brave, strong girl and she is a fighter," explained her mother Jill. "We are thankful for modern-day medicine, which enables her to live an active, pain-free life. Her brilliant doctors at Nemours have been amazing from day one, and we could never thank them enough for their love and dedication to our daughter."

Despite these difficulties, Delaney loves ballet, gymnastics, swimming, and art and crafts. She also loves play dates with her friends and spending time with her older brother. Delaney's best friend, Jessica, is also a Nemours patient who was diagnosed with cancer. Recently, the girls decided to give back and sponsored a huge toy drive for patients at Nemours, but that was just the beginning. Both girls will also be featured as patient ambassadors for this year's 10th Annual Help Our Kids Radiothon to continue supporting other children just like them. **Help us give every child like Delaney a healthy chance. [Donate Today!](#)**