



Jessica

"OUR WHOLE WORLD WAS ROCKED"



JESSICA'S STORY

Jessica was like any other happy toddler. She was giggly and playful and appeared totally healthy. When Jessica's parents noticed a growth on her back, the last thing they expected was to hear that their 14-month-old little girl had cancer.

"As you can understand, our whole world was rocked. Living life when your child is fighting cancer is hardly living," says Jessica's mother, Kate.

Jessica needed surgery to remove her tumor. Before and after surgery she received chemotherapy. With a schedule that required six days of chemotherapy followed by 21 days to recover, Jessica's treatment lasted almost a year. When treatment was over, she worked with physical therapists for more than a year to learn how to walk again because of the damage the tumor had caused. Her family calls her "Little Fierce" because she fought so hard to beat cancer.

Jessica is now five years old. Her parents bring her to Nemours every three months so her care team can monitor her health. Jessica also returns to Nemours for regular audiology and speech therapy appointments to address hearing damage that is a side effect of chemotherapy.

Jessica's best friend, Delaney, is also a Nemours patient who was diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA). Delaney tries to make sure all her visits to Nemours happen when Jessica is there, too, so they can support each other.

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.

When she grows up, Jessica says that she wants to be "a nurse that works with kids."

Help us give every child like Jessica a healthy chance. [Donate Today!](#)