

## Wiggles and Giggles Therapy for Kids: ABRIELLA'S STORY

Four-year-old Abriella Cochran is starting preschool in the fall. So are many children, but Abriella's path has been unique and amazing. She was born in May 2011, and her parents, Julian and Rheanna, knew right away that something wasn't right when Abriella kept suffering from asthma attacks and seizures. She was diagnosed with Rett syndrome, a rare brain disorder that mainly affects girls. Abriella grew and developed normally, but when she was about 9 months old she regressed and lost her ability to crawl, use her hands and talk.

"We were devastated," recalls Julian. "And Abriella was extremely frustrated. She knew she'd lost the ability to do those things."

In November 2013, Julian was at Columbus Community Hospital for physical therapy and told his physical therapist, Rusty, about Abriella. Rusty suggested that he bring Abriella to the hospital's Wiggles and Giggles Therapy for Kids. Wiggles and Giggles provides personalized therapy for newborns to teenagers, offering a range of

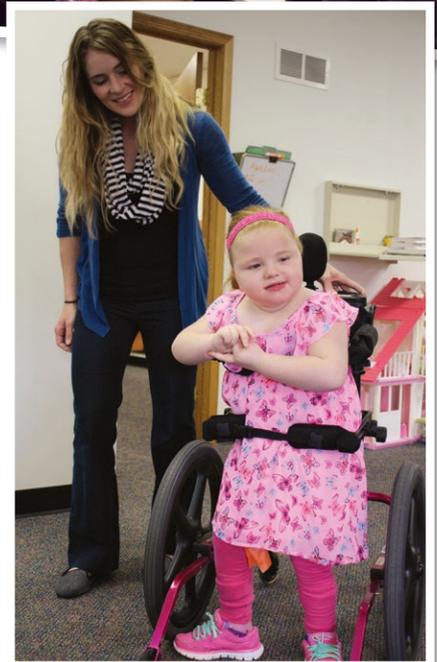
therapies including physical, occupational and speech.

"When we brought Abriella there," says Julian, "they gave us hope and helped us get through her daily care. Abriella has been treated by Delanie Hudnall for speech therapy, Trisha Nicolas for occupational therapy and Therese Chase for physical therapy. They've all been great, and she loves everybody there."

### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES HELP

"The team worked with Abriella and helped us get her the medical equipment she needed," says Julian. "We were able to get her a medical bed, a Tobii device for communication, a wheelchair and a KidWalk gait trainer. Thanks to the team, things have gotten a lot better."

Abriella communicates with the help of the Tobii Communicator, a computer-like device that monitors her eye movements and allows her to actually "speak." "When Abriella found out how to say 'I love you' she was ecstatic," shares Julian. "For days



you could see it in her eyes." The Wiggles and Giggles staff also set up some activity pages to engage her and develop her ability to communicate.

The KidWalk gait trainer enables Abriella to walk with assistance, while developing her motor and neural skills. The therapists are working with her on leg braces to further help with her walking.

"I wish there were more places like Wiggles and Giggles!" says Julian passionately. "There are so many other families who could benefit from what they do."

### LEARN MORE

To learn more about Wiggles and Giggles Therapy for Kids, call 402-562-3341 or select Rehabilitative Services under Our Services at [www.columbushosp.org](http://www.columbushosp.org). ♦



Abriella with her father, Julian, and therapist, Therese Chase.