

Megan's story

by her parents Charlie and Sarah



Megan is our only child and she was born on January 19, 2005.

When she was born she had hydrocephalus, known as fluid on the brain, which made the birth incredibly difficult, and she was delivered by emergency caesarean section and had to be resuscitated by doctors.



She spent many months in hospital before we were allowed to bring her home.

Megan had a very unsettled and uncomfortable year and as we attended various GP and hospital appointments we began to learn that Megan had a number of serious medical conditions including spastic quadriplegia, epilepsy and limited vision; all of which would need a lot of treatment and support.

In 2006 Megan contracted pneumonia and was hospitalised once more. She had trouble swallowing, and despite having started to eat solid food, she then gave up eating altogether and had to be fed through a tube in her nose.

She underwent a gastrostomy operation the following year so she could be fed into her tummy.

In February 2008 Megan faced her most difficult challenge as she contracted pneumococcal meningitis and dropped into a coma-like state as the infection took hold.

Megan had drains inserted to release the fluid around her head which became infected and she became very ill- this was when medical staff said they would try their hardest to save our daughter, but they couldn't promise anything. It was a very traumatic time for Megan and for us.

Megan was ventilated for two weeks and the first time medical staff tried to let her breathe for herself she lasted less than 24 hours before needing to be ventilated again. This is when we considered Megan's future and realised she may not make it. We even thought about donating Megan's organs if she didn't survive.

She was then taken off the ventilation for the second time and by some miracle she managed to breathe for herself. Megan has since undergone a number of operations, but she is settled and we have recently had a new bedroom and bathroom created at home so we can offer her the best environment we can.

We found out about East Anglia's Children's Hospices in 2007 and have come to rely upon their Milton hospice in Cambridgeshire for short-break care for Megan.

There are rooms for parents to stay at the hospice- so we or other family members can be close to Megan- but feel at ease knowing we have 24/7 support from EACH staff.

They provide a home from home environment, and even though we miss her when she stays there, we can relax knowing Megan is in the best possible place for care. She has also benefitted from hydrotherapy and music therapy at the hospice- something we couldn't provide ourselves.

Support from EACH meant we could go on holiday for the first time since Megan was born- we could relax- something we hadn't done for a long time.

We just couldn't have coped without them.

Thank you.

Charlie and Sarah.

