

Know Me

NAME

Amelia

PASSION

Disney's Moana

My Story

Three-year-old Amelia Hartong didn't have an easy start. Diagnosed with a brain tumor at 5 months old, she endured an aggressive chemotherapy regimen all in her first year of life. Today she is cancer free and thriving! Amelia continues to overcome many obstacles despite her global delays.

Amelia worked with a team of specialists through Stark DD's Early Intervention program for occupational, physical, and speech therapies.

According to mom, Melanie, Amelia's therapists from Early Intervention truly got to witness a complete transformation during the time they worked with her. "From a baby that just completed treatment and didn't want to be touched or anyone to look at her.... to a toddler that was excited to see them when they walked in the door," exclaimed Melanie.

Amelia has a personality that is one of a kind! Her tenacious spirit carried her through her sickest moments and hasn't left, she's ornery, full of sass, but yet so sweet and loving all at the same time!



YouTube



Mom says Amelia's big brother, Blake, is seriously her best motivation! "Everything has to be Amelia's idea, but Blake can push her limits in a fun and loving way and helps to get her to practice all the moves to make her stronger! We live the saying.... "If you want to know how to treat a child with special needs, watch their siblings!" This is very true in our house!"

As with any toddler, Amelia has many favorite things. She LOVES Disney's Moana, swimming, and looking/reading books. She loves throwing balls; she has really good aim (which she proved during her photo shoot with Craig James). Amelia is super ticklish, and loves and demands attention!

For Melanie, her dad, Corey and brother Blake, Amelia is their own little miracle. "We are truly the lucky ones and for that we are forever grateful!"

Amelia will continue to receive specially designed speech and preschool services through her local school district.



Know Stark DD



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