

Know Us

NAME **Jemma**

PASSION **Baking**

NAME **Lyla**

PASSION **Eating**



Our Story

Meet Lyla and Jemma, daughters of Steve and Lana Schroeder. They are identical twins born at 26 weeks due to TTTS (twin to twin transfusion syndrome) and/or SIUGR (selective intrauterine growth restriction). The official diagnosis still remains unclear, but at 26 weeks Jemma began to fail, so the girls were delivered by emergency c-section. Lyla was 2 lbs and Jemma was about 1.5 lbs. Both girls measured around 12 inches.

Get to Know JEMMA

"Born at 26 weeks with her twin sister at 1.5 lbs, Jemma has overcome a lot. Jemma had a tough road with learning to breathe and eat on her own. She spent over 5 months in the hospital learning to breathe and was finally able to come home without oxygen. She was released after 146 days with a g-tube for feeding. Jemma has so many passions. She loves helping mommy bake, anything with wheels, all types of ball games, all our favorite Disney and Nick Jr characters, playing with other kids, and her twin sister. She is always keeping a lookout for her sister and making sure she is included. Her ability to befriend anyone is amazing. Early Intervention was by our side from the beginning. Jemma successfully completed physical therapy through

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Sisters...Sisters...SISTERS!



Early Intervention and overcame the need of a feeding tube. While in Preschool, Jemma's vocabulary has soared. She absolutely loves school and playing with all "kids" and her "best friends". I can't wait to see what the future holds for our little chatterbox."

Get to Know LYLA

"Born at 26 weeks and only 2 lbs, Lyla has proven she is a fighter! While in NICU, Lyla quickly began to breathe on her own and had a mostly uneventful NICU stay. She came home after 86 days, which was before their due date! Lyla's passion is food. She loves to eat. She loves foods of all kinds and she refuses nothing. She will even steal food off of your plate if you aren't looking! Her biggest strength is her smile and laugh. She can make anyone happy. She loves to laugh and clap! Stark DD has helped us, as parents, navigate the complex medical world and find resources for our family that we didn't know existed. Through Early Intervention and now Preschool, Lyla has been able to get physical, occupational, and speech therapies, as well as be in a learning environment with her peers. Lyla is current working on her ability to sit-up independently for longer periods of time and she is learning to use an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) speech device."

Under the guidance of Jenn Masser, Stark DD Physical Therapist, and Amanda Haga, Stark DD Developmental Specialist, Early Intervention services started as soon as possible for the Schroeder twins. "We started working with the Schroeder family shortly after Jemma was discharged from NICU. The girls were only two months old when adjusted for prematurity. We were able to support their parents and grandparents in adjusting to life with two fragile babies," explained Jenn. "As the girls progressed we helped the family address their individual needs and provided support and education through some difficult diagnoses and challenging behaviors. We got to see Jemma learn to walk, eat and voice her opinion and celebrated when Lyla started to explore her environment and sit on her own."

Stark DD and Early Intervention supported the family with their service providers, Family Support Service funds (FSS), adaptive

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Know Stark DD



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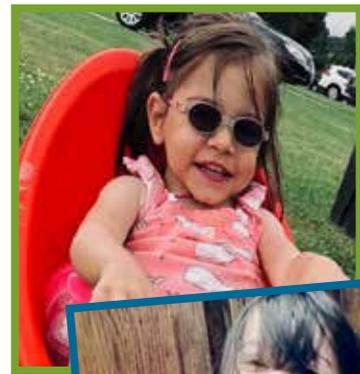
equipment needs, and referred for an Service and Support Administrator (SSA) when they aged out of the program to continue to assist with supporting their needs.

Cristina Barker, Stark DD SSA, recently became involved with the girls when they transitioned to Stark DD's Preschool program at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center. "They are having a successful year so far growing and learning. I have helped the most with IEP's and being a support for mom at the meetings," said Cristina.

Steve and Lana said the first three years of the girls' lives were a blur of nonstop specialist appointments and therapies. "Lyla has since learned to feed herself solid food and Jemma was able to have the g-tube removed. Jemma also began to crawl, walk, and run while in Early Intervention," said Lana. "Jen was able to support our family with obtaining the necessary equipment for Lyla in our home and now she has a pretty cool stander, wheelchair, and gait trainer! Amanda worked closely with Jemma to learn patience and understanding with toys."

"We truly appreciate all the help and support of Jen and Amanda from Early Intervention, Brittney from Eastgate, Cristina, and the entire support of the Eastgate and Stark DD staff," said Lana.

Listen to Lana Schroeder's podcast interview: <https://play.acast.com/s/too-peas-in-a-podcast/peafriendlana-ourfirstoverpea->



◀ Watch Lyla practice using her walker at preschool playtime: <https://youtu.be/LL-aDSNdRhE>

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