

## Gabby's Story

Gabby was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia when she had just turned 4. She kept complaining of knee pain. Due to my background of working in a doctor's office and from hearing triages, I waited 1 week and the pain got worse. I took her to the doctors and had an x-ray and it showed nothing. We were referred to an orthopedic doc. and he ordered blood work. It was then when our doctor called me and gave me the news. She developed a fever, it was at that time we had to be admitted to Hershey Med Ctr. for 1 month. She wasn't allowed to leave until the fever broke. She had also had a bacterial infection in her blood and pneumonia in one of her lungs. She was on three antibiotics, steroids and chemo. We finally go to leave after a month and came home, I had to support her when she had walked because she had become so weak after taking steroids for a month plus her chemo, vincristine. Eventually, she went back to visit her preschool, under my supervision and did approximately 1-2 months of physical therapy to help rebuild her stamina and flexibility. She also underwent many spinal taps as part of her treatment. She finally regained her stamina and returned to school the following year. She finished her treatment in April of 2011. Her mediport was removed in May of 2011 and has returned to the clinic at Hershey monthly for check-ups. She has been in remission for a little over a year and now has begun her check-ups every two months. She is as strong as an ox and has fully recovered and you would never know that she had ever suffered from leukemia.

She has a sister who is 9, Danielle, and a brother who is 11, Joe.