

Angelman Syndrome



Hannah Oppenheim, MD

Mark Nespeca, MD

Maria Augusta Montenegro, MD, PhD

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Hannah Oppenheim

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Department of Neurosciences

Division of Pediatric Neurology

Rady Children's Hospital / UC San Diego



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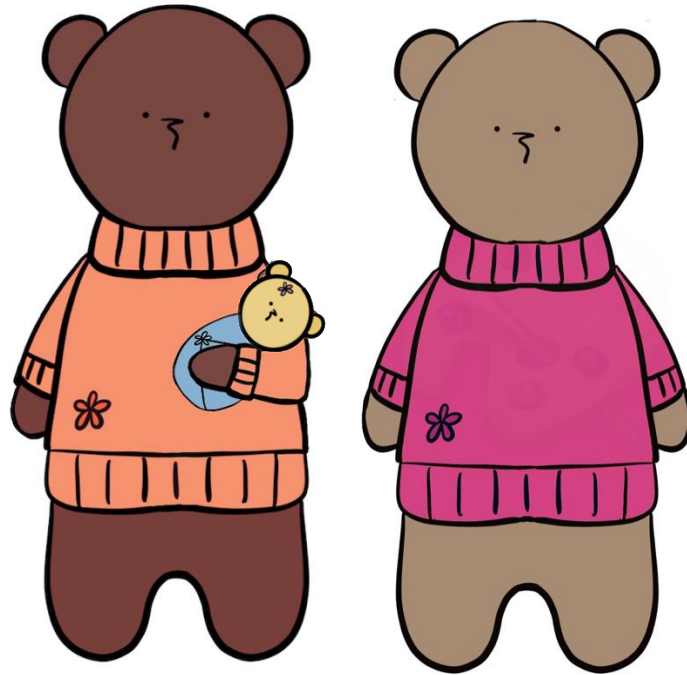
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Hello! This is my little sister. We love to play together.



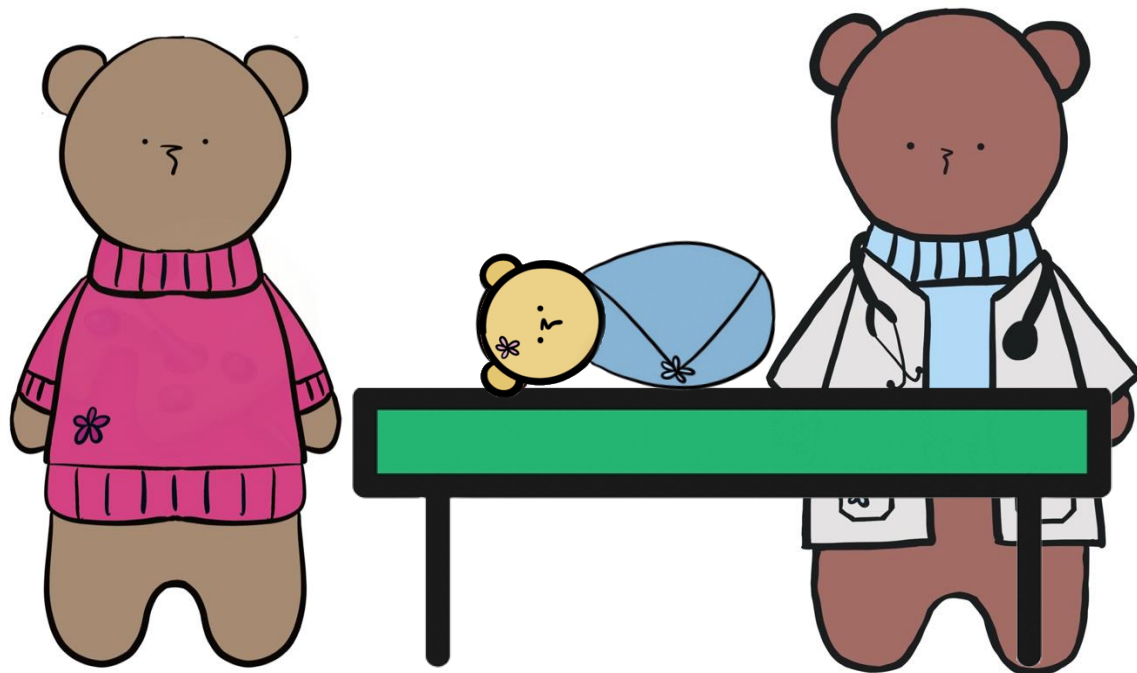
"Hello"

When she was born, her doctor noticed that she was a little floppy. My parents thought it was really cute, but the doctor said that she needed to see a neurologist.



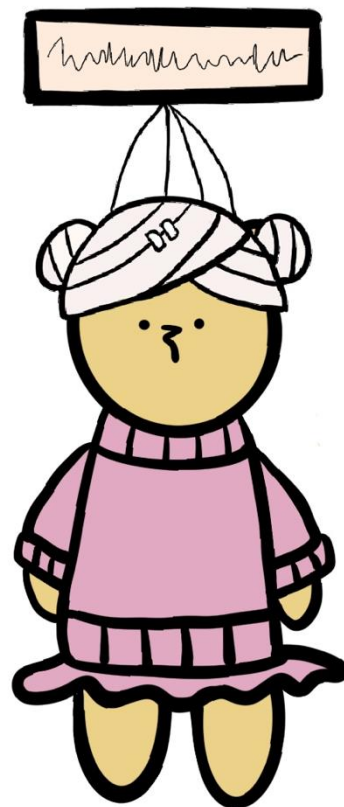
A neurologist is a brain doctor.

My parents took her to a very nice doctor who explained that my sister was not learning new skills as fast as she could.



The doctor explained that my sister needed some tests to help us understand why she was developing slower than expected.

Although the tests were very important, the most important step was to start early intervention as soon as possible.



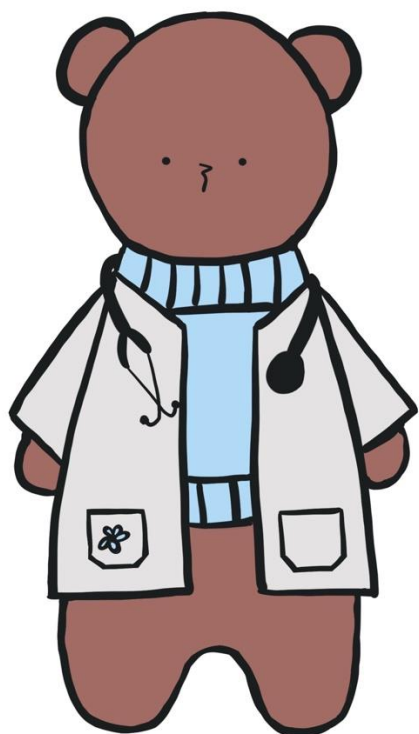
In the follow-up visit the doctor explained that my sister has Angelman syndrome.

We also learned that:

- People are born with Angelman syndrome, so you cannot "catch it."
- It is caused by an abnormality of a gene called UBE3A on Chromosome 15.
- Kids with Angelman syndrome are very loving and love to hold hands or give hugs.
- The most common symptoms are low muscle tone, frequent laughs or smiles, and seizures.



- People with Angelman syndrome have difficulty with talking, but that doesn't mean they aren't listening and understanding what is said.
- Devices like walkers or wheelchairs can help kids that have trouble walking.



- Kids with Angelman syndrome need frequent tests to help keep them healthy.



At first my parents were scared, but the nice doctor explained that there are many things we can do to help children with Angelman syndrome.

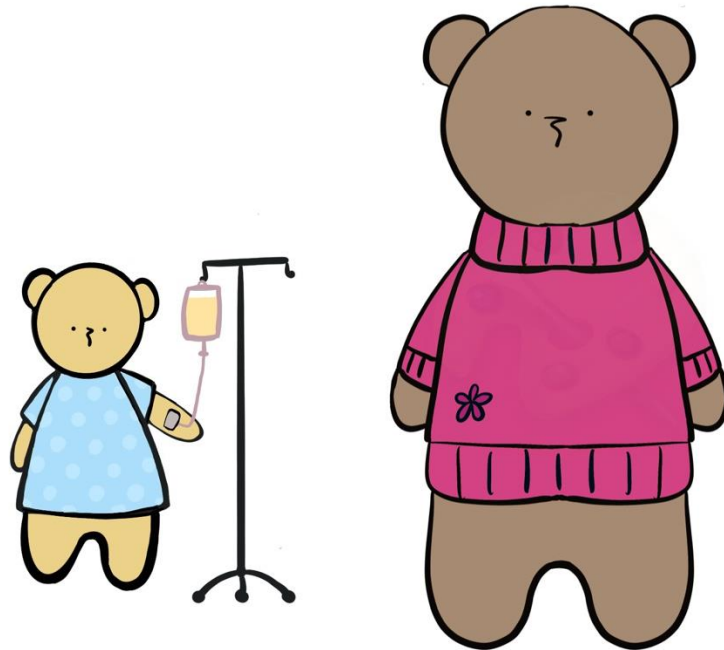


In the beginning I was also a little sad
because I wanted to play with my sister,
but she didn't know how to play like me.



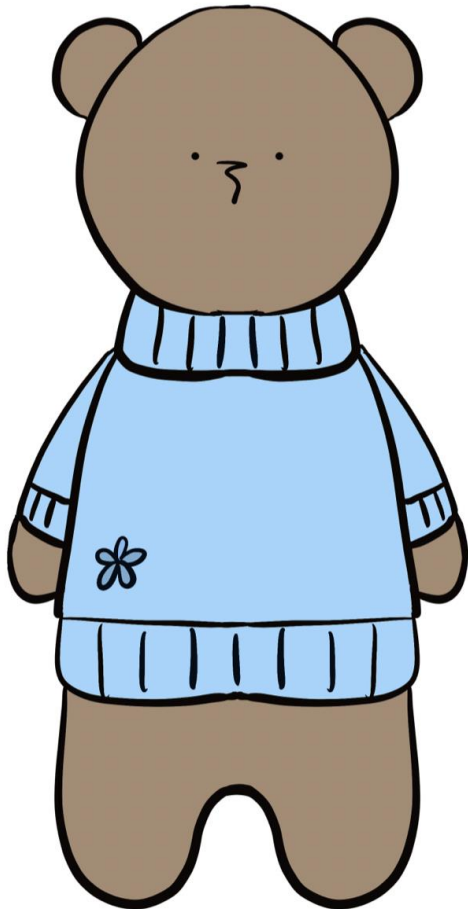
Slowly she started learning new skills.

I am so proud of my sister; she is working really hard!

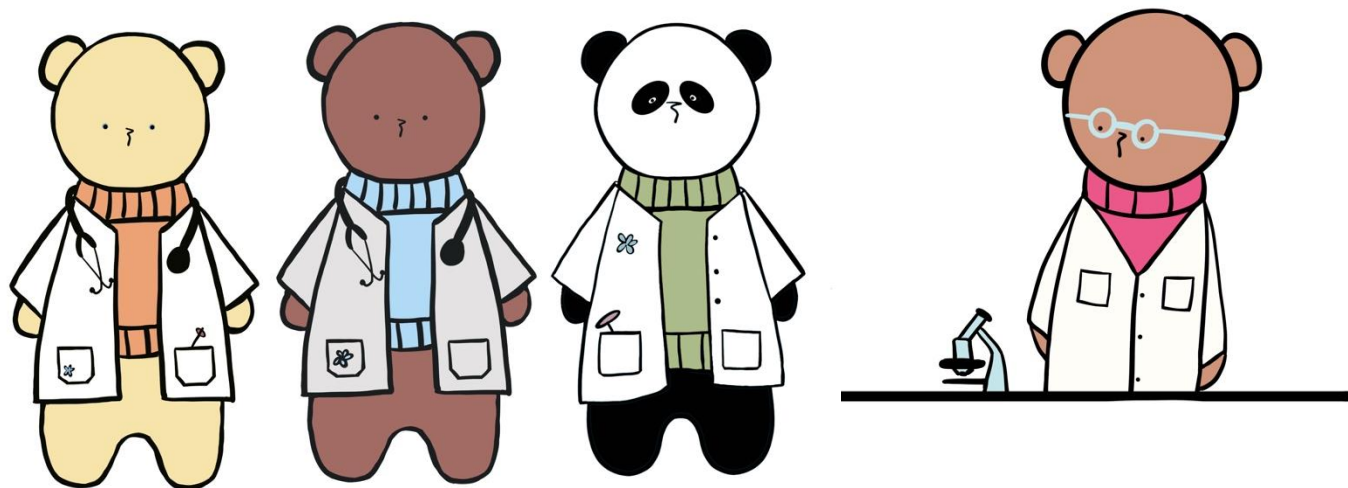


But sometimes I get frustrated that she spends a lot of time with our parents. One day, they even got to sleep at the hospital.

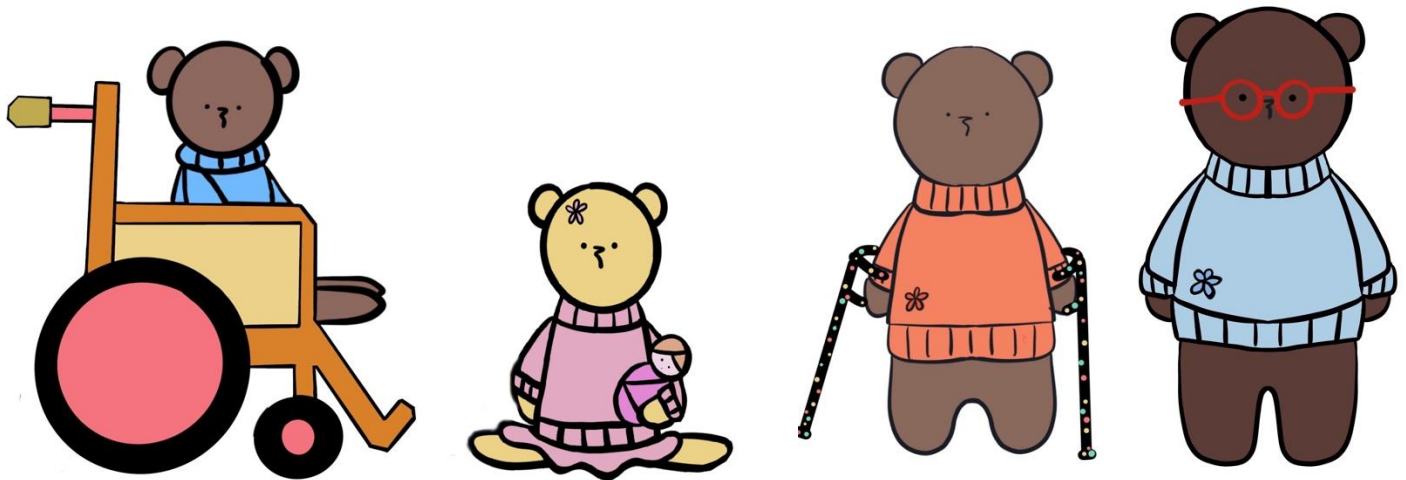
"I wish I could have
a sleepover with my
parents!"



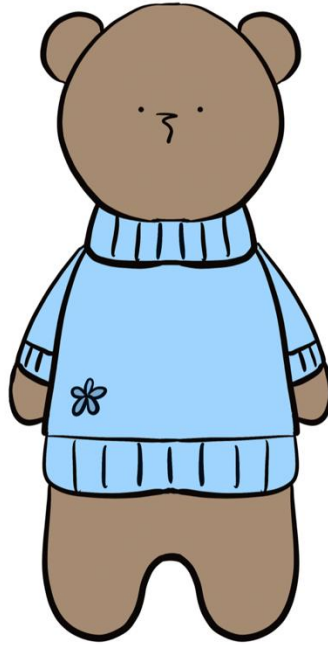
There is still a lot to learn about
Angelman syndrome and scientists are
working hard to find out how to treat it
even better.



In the beginning, I thought my sister was the only child with Angelman syndrome, but now I know that many children also have it.



Everyone is a little different.
Although many children have Angelman syndrome, they are still regular kids just like you and me.



The End

