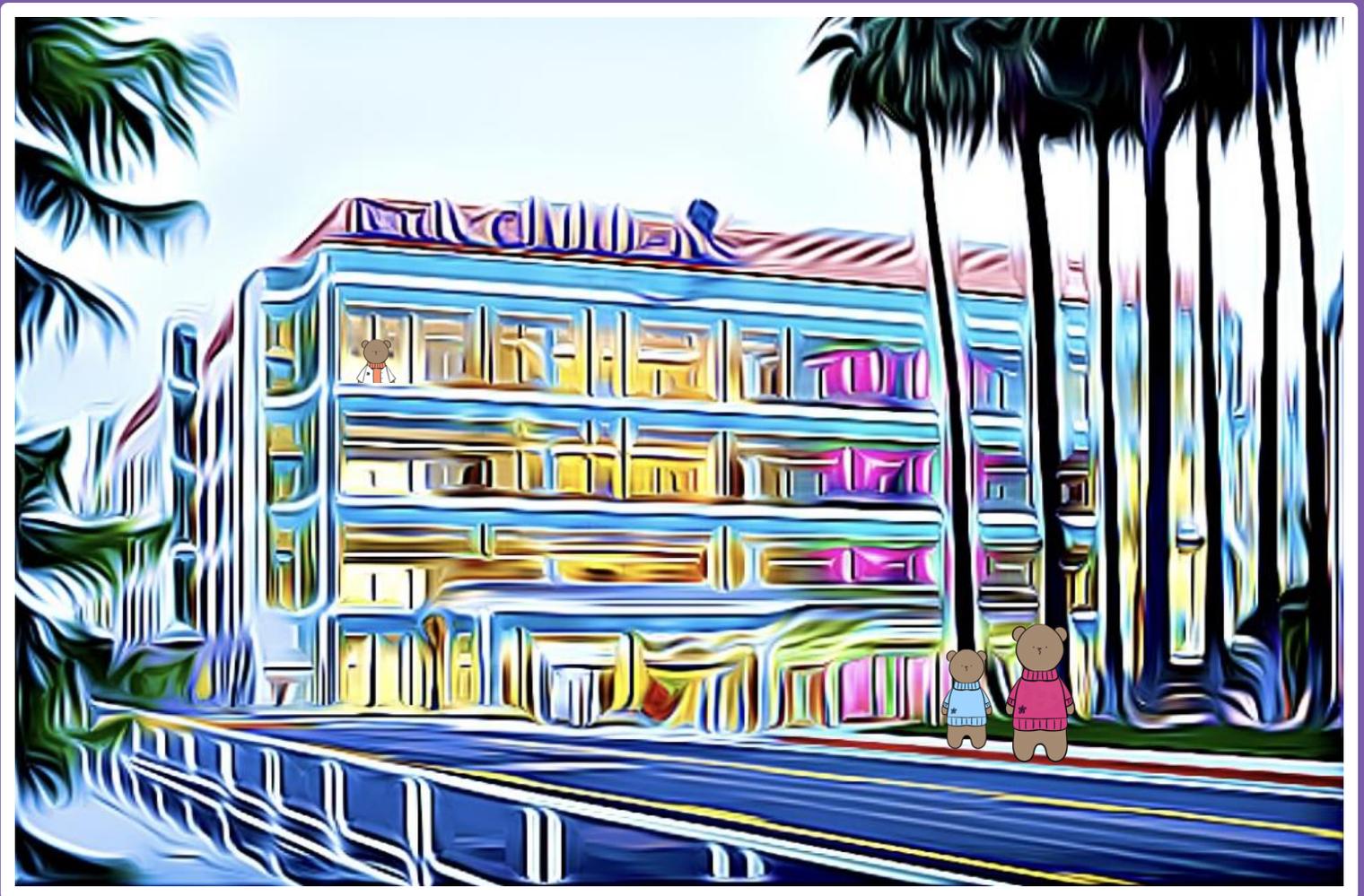


# Rett Syndrome



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Rett Syndrome  
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## SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. David Lieberman for the suggestions and corrections.

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



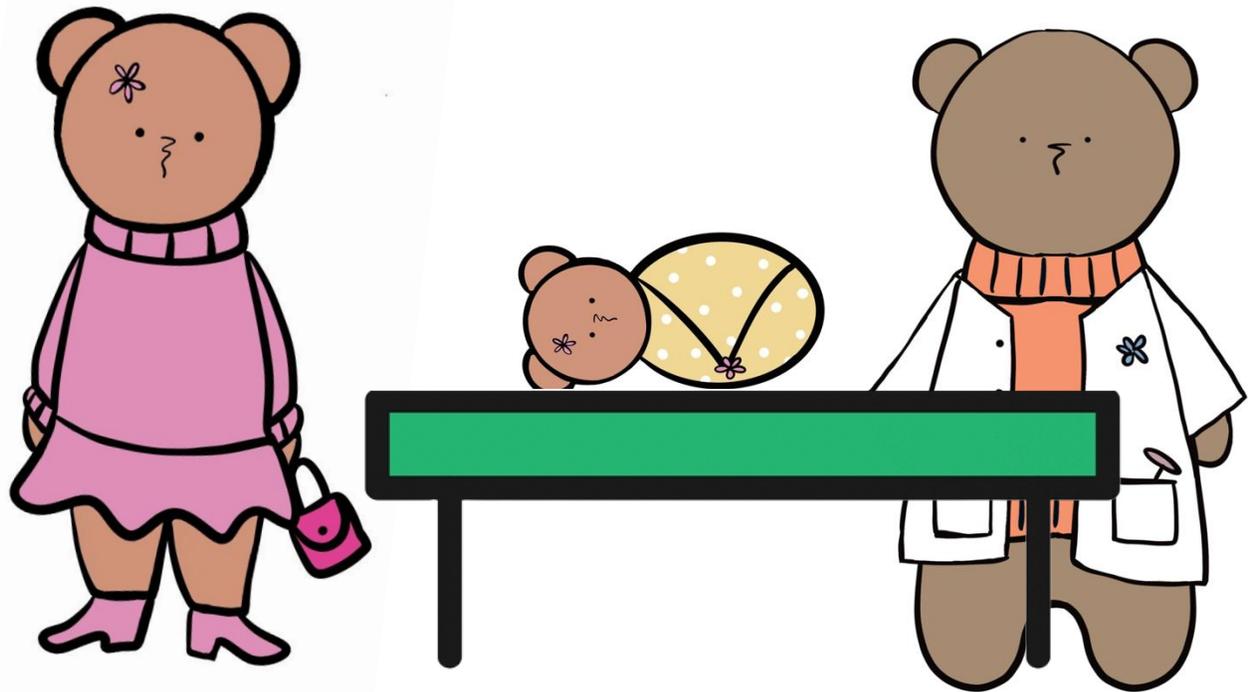
"Hello"

When she was a baby, her doctor noticed that she was not developing new skills as expected. He said that my sister needed to see a neurologist.



A neurologist is a brain doctor.

The brain doctor was very nice and examined her with a reflex hammer. It was funny because when he hit my sister's knee, her leg kicked the air.



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.



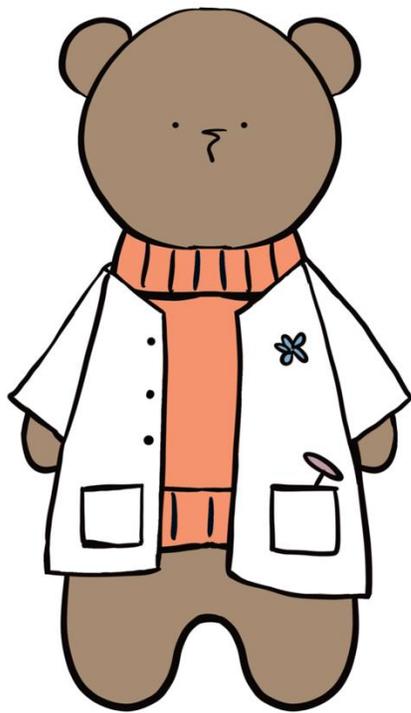
In the follow-up visit the doctor explained that my sister has Rett syndrome.

We also learned that:

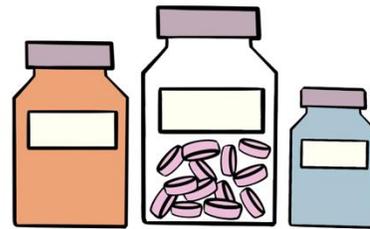
- Rett Syndrome is a rare genetic disease caused by a mutation in the MECP2 gene.
- It affects mostly girls.
- People are born with Rett syndrome, so you cannot "catch it."
- Kids with Rett syndrome like to hold and move their hands almost all the time.



- They have difficulty talking, but that doesn't mean they are not listening and understanding what is said.
- Walkers or wheelchairs can help if they have trouble walking.



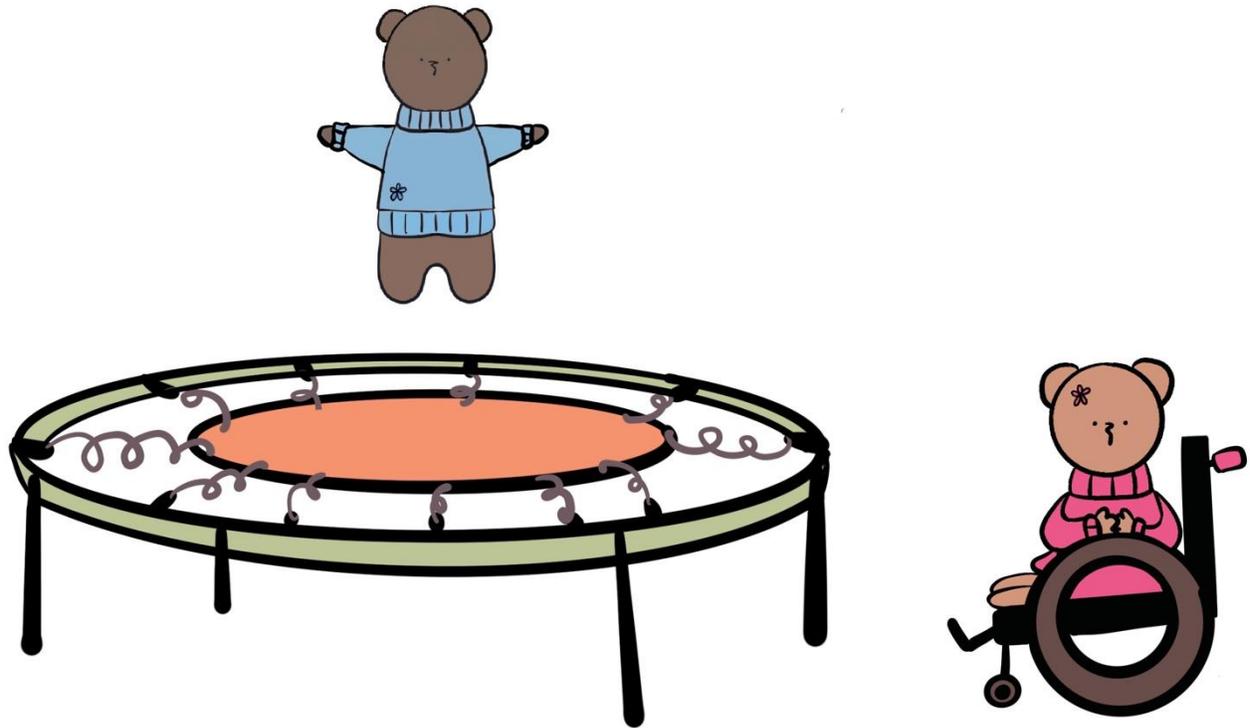
- Medication can also help improve some of the the symptoms.
- Kids with Rett syndrome need frequent tests to help keep them healthy.



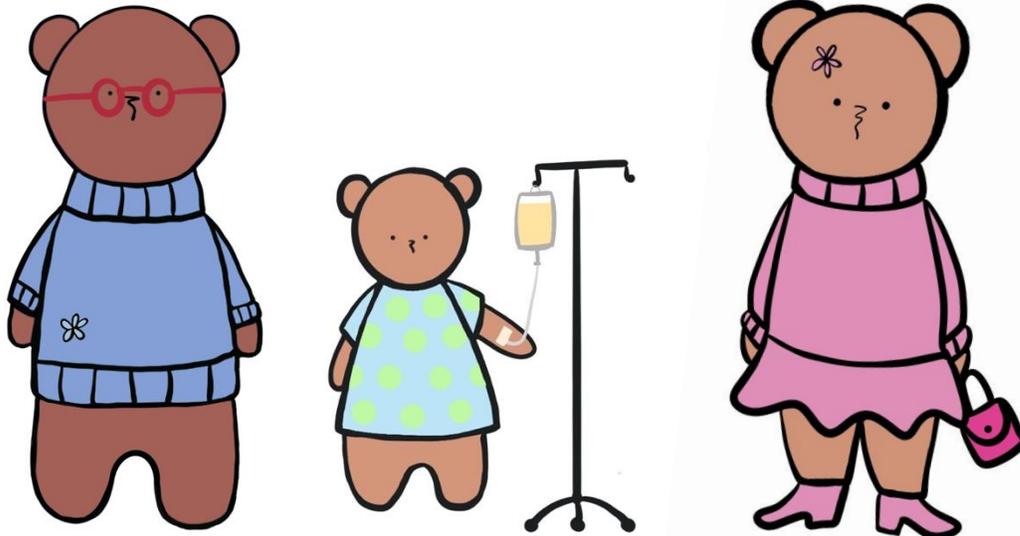
At first my parents were scared, but the nice doctor explained that there are many things we can do to help children with Rett syndrome.



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.

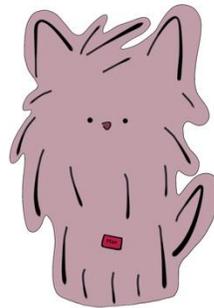
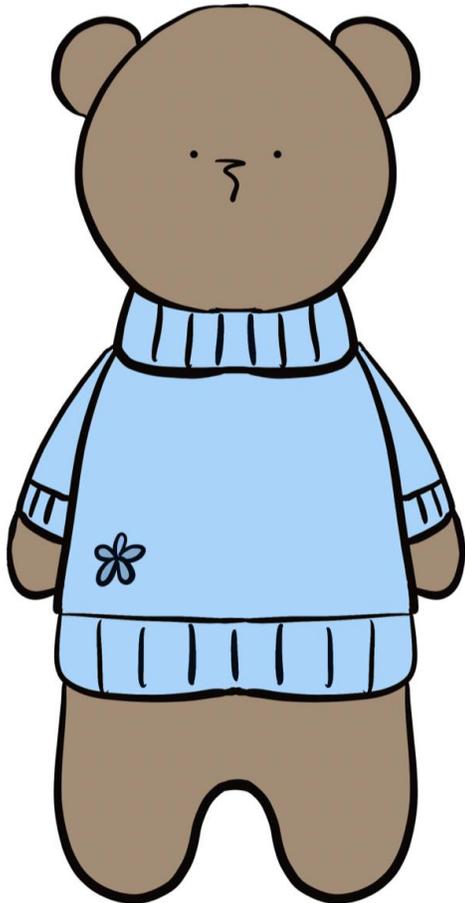


I am so proud of my sister; she is working really hard!

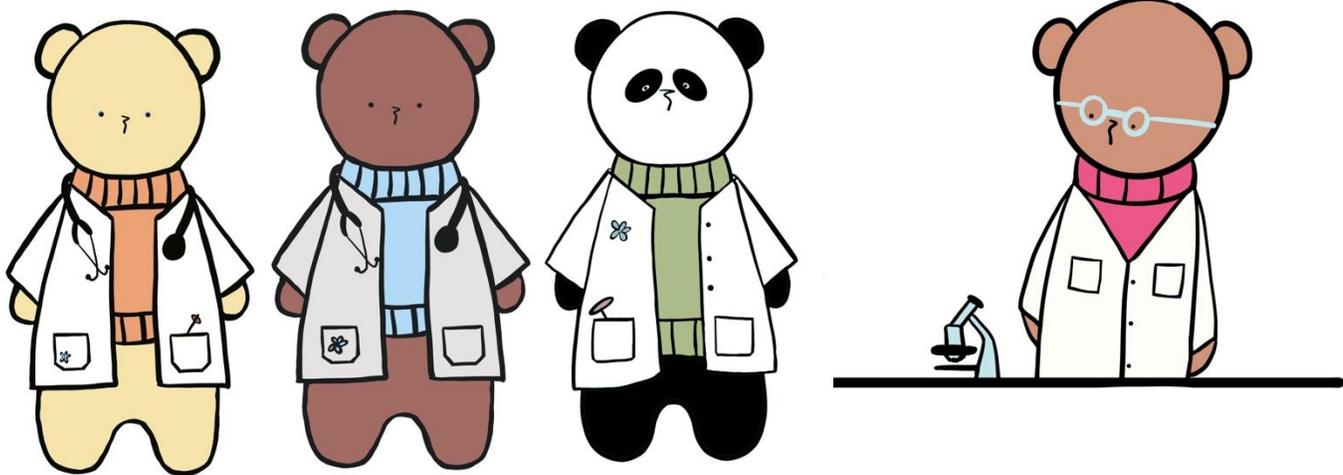


But sometimes I get frustrated because she spends a lot of time with our parents. One day, they even got to sleep at the hospital.

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



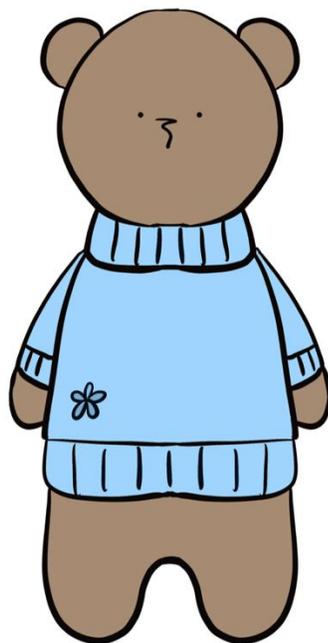
There is still a lot to learn about Rett syndrome and scientists are working hard to find out how to treat it even better.



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



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



The End

