

# Making Miracles

**K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital** Expert neurological care helps Farmingdale toddler blossom.

Victoria Bowman was 6 months old when she was diagnosed with a large brain tumor. Although surgery saved Victoria's life, she suffered lasting brain damage. However, due to pediatric neurology expertise at K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital at Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Victoria has begun to achieve her full potential.

"Victoria's tumor damaged the ventricles that drain fluid from the brain," explains Victoria's mom, Susan. "After surgery, she began collecting excess fluid."

Doctors placed a shunt in Victoria's brain to help it drain. For the next few years, Victoria's condition was stable, although she dealt with severe developmental delays. But at age 3, Victoria experienced a major seizure. She was raced to K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital.

## Neurology Expertise

**Lawrence Daniels, M.D.**, pediatric neurosurgeon with K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital, carefully examined Victoria and studied her MRI scans. He explained that Victoria's shunt system wasn't working optimally, putting increased pressure on her brain. He recommended placing a new shunt system that drained fluid from both sides of her brain instead of just one.

"We didn't know Dr. Daniels because we had received neurology care elsewhere, but as a parent, you get this feeling. You can look someone in the eyes and see how sincere they are," says Susan. "I saw the connection he had with my daughter and trusted him completely."

To ensure the shunt was draining the correct amount of fluid, Dr. Daniels externalized Victoria's shunt system, meticulously monitoring and making adjustments to the system outside her body.



Victoria Bowman, 3, and her mom, Susan, enjoy being outside on a nice day.

"Shunts are very sensitive. If there is too much fluid, it puts pressure on the brain, which can lead to seizures and even death. Too much drainage can cause the brain to collapse further," explains Dr. Daniels, who is also part of The Neuroscience Institute at Jersey Shore.

"Our approach was very personalized. We carefully measured and controlled Victoria's drainage to ensure it was right for her."

## Reaching Potential

After Victoria spent two weeks in the hospital, Dr. Daniels was confident that her shunt system was appropriately adjusted. Although Victoria will continue to face developmental challenges, within just a few months, her family noticed amazing progress.

"Before, Victoria was not verbal. Now, she says her ABCs and is beginning to put together sentences. Where she once didn't notice her brothers, she's now hugging and kissing them," says Susan. "And instead of only walking, she's running."

Dr. Daniels explains, "Over time, even a slight imbalance in fluid accumulation can lead to developmental issues, seizures and other problems. Victoria's subtle imbalance was silently holding her back and prevented her brain from fully expressing itself."

"It's a huge difference — unbelievable," says Susan. "Dr. Daniels took his time; he studied her. He made a miracle."



**Lawrence Daniels, M.D.**  
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## Caring for Kids



Hackensack Meridian Health understands the importance of specialized care for children. We now have two hospitals dedicated to children's care: K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital and Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital at HackensackUMC. Learn more about our services at [HackensackMeridianHealth.org](http://HackensackMeridianHealth.org).