

# Joyful return visit to ER

Saturday, September 7, 2013 By Ralph Pokorny



*Lacy Earnest, who was on duty the day Skye was brought in, outfits her with a nurses cap and a stethoscope Monday morning. Photo by Ralph Pokorny/Daily Mail.*

Monday morning blond haired 3-year-old Skye Jordan and her mother Casey paid a visit to the Nevada Regional Medical Center Emergency Room on a mission to thank everyone who had provided the help and emotional support they received the last time they were there.

About 18 months ago Skye, who was about 18 months old at the time, was outside her baby-sitters unsupervised, when a relative got into a car, turned the ignition key, put the car in gear and backed over Skye, leaving her unconscious.



*Frnt: Casey Jordan and son Caleb, Lacy Earnest holding Skye and Matt Goodrear. Back:Kaleb Bishop, Jacob Blurton, Dr. Phil Barker and Mike Eador, pose for a photograph outside the NRMC emergency room doors after their initial reunion. Photo by Ralph Pokorny/Daily Mail.*

A helicopter was dispatched by Children's Mercy Hospital, but was unable to get to the scene, so Skye was loaded into a car and taken from Schell City to Nevada Regional Medical Center and a Vernon County Ambulance manned by Kaleb Bishop and Mike Eador headed out to meet them en route. About halfway to Nevada Skye was transferred to the ambulance for the remainder of the trip and to receive emergency medical treatment.

Casey Jordan, Skye's mother, who was at work when this happened, said Monday, that when the ambulance arrived, they found that the helicopter had mechanical problems and Children's Mercy was sending a second helicopter. In the mean time, Skye was taken to NRMC's ER for treatment where she was unresponsive and was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury.

"Dr. Conley said she didn't look very good and needed to go to Children's Mercy," Casey said.



*Casey and Skye Jordan at NRMC ER. Photo by Ralph Pokorny/Daily Mail.*

"You know when a doctor is crying there's not a lot of hope," she said.

"She was given a 5 percent chance of making it," Casey said.

"We stayed here about two hours and she was flown to Children's Mercy Hospital," Casey said.

She said when they left the ER "the crew walked us out to the helicopter, which I thought was pretty special."

When they got to Children's Mercy the news was no better. The same 5 percent chance.

Casey said the doctor there told her there was a 72-hour window when improvements could be expected.

An MRI was performed and a blood clot was located on the left side of her brain.

Then Casey said they had to wait for a second MRI to see if the clot had moved and might go into the brain. It did not.

The doctor talked about doing brain surgery, but did not need to when she started moving. Skye was showing brain activity, however, the doctor said you don't expect any brain activity at that stage, Casey said.

After that Skye started showing improvement.

"She went from a newborn to 18 months old in two weeks," Casey said of Skye's improvement.

They stayed at Children's Mercy for a month and then five months at the Rehab Institute of Kansas City. For the five months of rehabilitation we lived at the Ronald McDonald House, she said.

Now Skye is functioning at the level of a 3 1/2 year old, Casey said.

The only lasting visible sign of Skye's injuries is an eyelid that sometimes stays closed because of nerve damage.

"I'm counting my blessings that's all that came from it," Casey said.

Since then Casey has a new purpose in life -- working with Kids and Cars to get back-up cameras installed on all cars.

Casey said that backovers like happened to Skye are not "accidents," they can be prevented.

Equipping new cars with backup cameras would add little cost to a new car and adding them to older cars is not expensive, she said.

According to the website [www.kidsandcars.org](http://www.kidsandcars.org): "Every year, thousands of children are killed or seriously injured because a driver backing up didn't see them. A backover incident typically takes place when a car is backing out of a driveway or parking space."

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