GETTING IT RIGHT EARLY – WHY CHILDHOOD STROKE MATTERS

Nancy McStravick – "My Child Had A Stroke"

OUR JOURNEY

- 18 months
- Chicken pox
- A&E
- 6 hour wait
- Lost the power down her right side (FAST)
- *Children don't have Strokes!!*



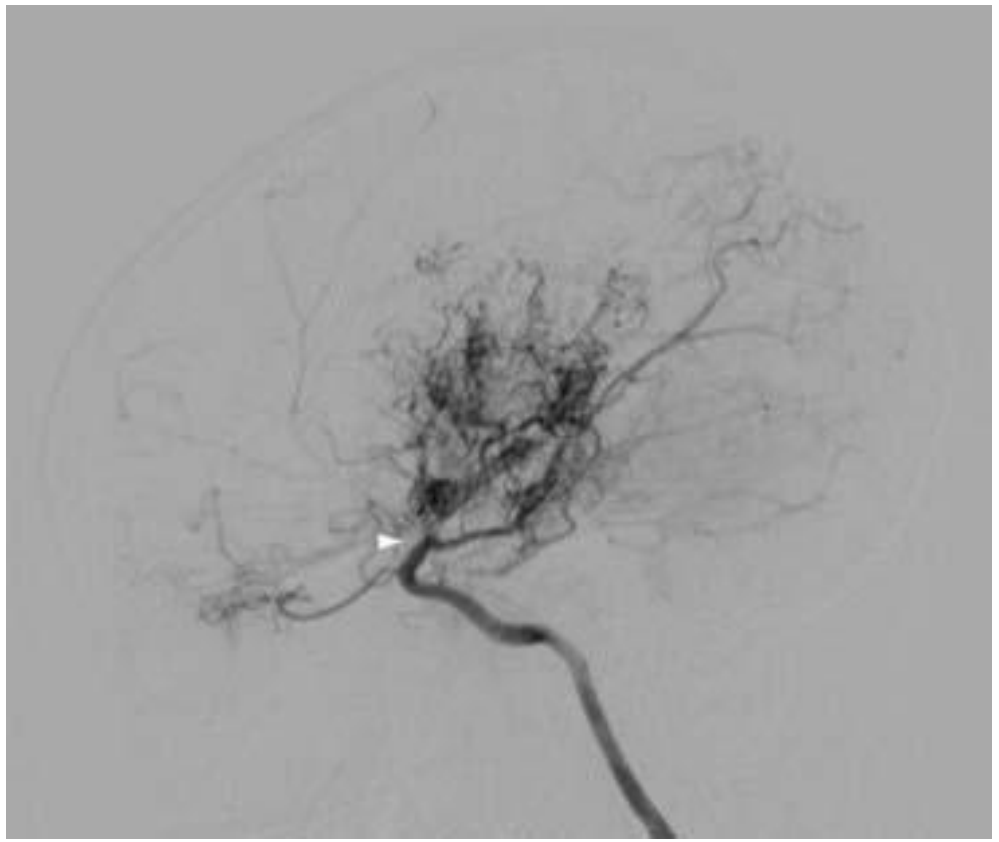
THE HOSPITAL VISIT

- 2 strokes
- Misdiagnosed
- No MRI
- Limited Physio
- Home



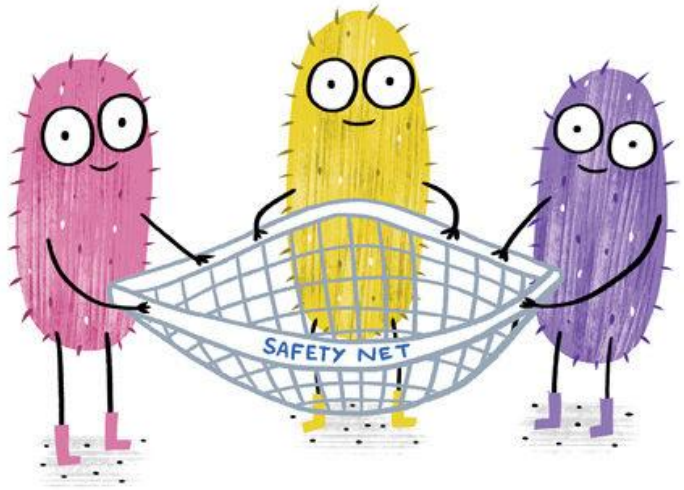
THE ORDEAL WAS JUST BEGINNING…

- **Twitching……Ambulance**
- **Finally - an MRI**
- **Ticking time bomb**
- **Moyamoya – puff of smoke**



THE ORDEAL CONTINUES…

- **GOSH - 2 ECIC Brain surgeries**
- **Safety net disappeared**
- **“You can’t fall apart” – Keep her alive**
- **We felt alone**
- **Pressure to get it right**



Diagnosis



Acute Care



After discharge



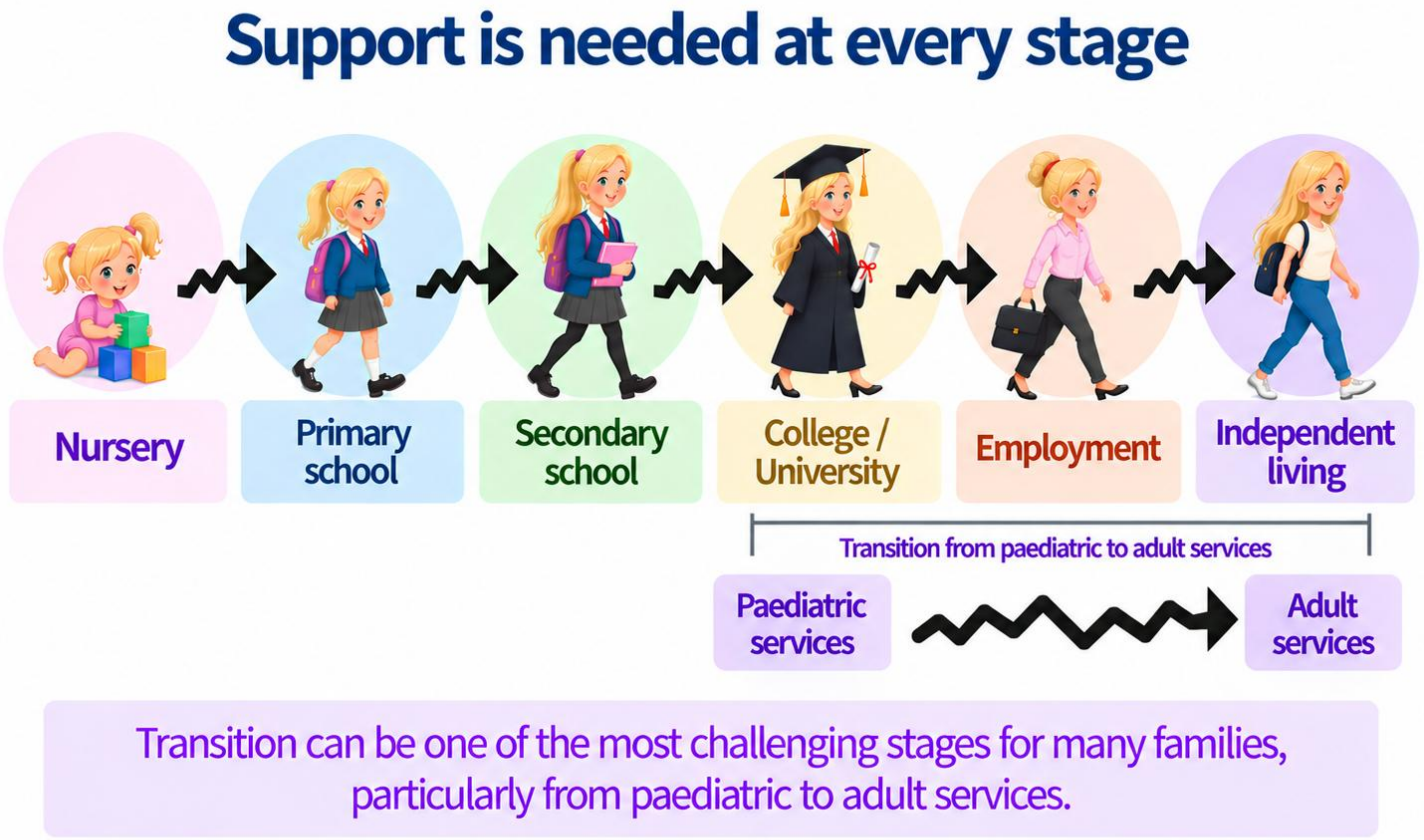
THE IMPACT ON THE FAMILY

A stroke doesn't just affect the child – it impacts on the whole family.



It changes life for everyone.

NAVIGATING TRANSITION STAGES…



WHAT ARE SOME CAUSES OF CHILDHOOD STROKE?

- **Diseases of the blood vessels include:**
  - Focal cerebral arteriopathy of childhood
  - Moyamoya
  - Arterial dissection (torn artery)
  - Central nervous system vasculitis
  - Arteriovenous malformations and cavernous malformations
  - Aneurysms
- **Cardiac disease and surgery**
- **Sickle cell disease and other blood clotting disorders**
- **Infections include:**
  - Varicella zoster virus (Chicken Pox virus)
  - Upper respiratory tract infections



WHAT CAN A CHILDHOOD STROKE PRESENT LIKE?



DATA AND INSIGHTS

- Approx 400 children a year
- More children die from Stroke than Brain Tumours
- Stroke is one of the top 10 cause of death for children
- 3/4 who survive are left with unmet needs
- Often no cause identified
- Performance below their peers
- Stigma of an "older people's condition"



FINAL REFLECTIONS




I had a stroke when I was 3.
I had a stroke at birth.
I had a stroke when I was 5.
I had a stroke when I was 2.
I had a stroke when I was 7.
I had a stroke when I was 10.
I had a stroke during cancer treatment.
Children DO HAVE Strokes
I had a stroke when I was 6.
I had a stroke when I was 12.
I had a stroke before I was 1.
I had a stroke when I was 4.
I had a stroke when I was 8.
I had a stroke when I was 9.
Childhood stroke is real. More awareness. Brighter futures.