

## Parents thankful to see daughter's first day of school



Damaris Higuera snaps a photo of her daughter, Sadie, just before the 3-year-old's first day of preschool, a momentous event for the little girl who formerly suffered from multiple life-threatening seizures (Christian Rodas).

By Karen Brainard, Contract Reporter  
May 10, 2016

The first day of school is an exciting day for any child, but for Sadie Higuera it was a momentous occasion and one her parents thought they might never see.

Sadie, who turned 3 years old on May 4, attended her first day of special needs preschool at Ramona Elementary on Monday.

"It's been pretty exciting for us," said Brian Higuera, Sadie's father. "She had a great first day."

"She seemed happy," said Sadie's mother, Damaris.

"She had a couple of smiles for us," said Brian.

Sadie was born with a rare genetic disorder called Schinzel-Giedion syndrome and suffered from life-threatening seizures, as well as tumors. Medications prescribed by doctors produced side



Three-year-old Sadie Higuera smiles for her father, Brian Higuera, just before attending her first day of preschool at Ramona Elementary. (Christian Rodas)

effects, including puffiness, and didn't help, Brain said. Every night the parents wondered if that would be her last one.

After being told there were no more options when she was about 8 months old, Brian and Damaris visited with a doctor at Centric Wellness in San Diego and turned to a form of medical marijuana. Through a tube in her stomach, Sadie receives high concentration cannabidiol hemp oil called Real Scientific Hemp Oil (RSHO) from San Diego-based company HempMeds.

"Basically medical cannabis gave her a second chance at life," said Brian. "It made her come alive."

Her seizures were significantly reduced and the tumors are gone, said Brian.

A homeschool teacher who would visit with Sadie for an hour each week suggested she be assessed to attend the special needs preschool, said Damaris.

Sadie will attend school four days a week for three hours each morning. On her first day, Brian said that she had a sensory class and a communications class, but her favorite time appeared to be hearing lullabies. Brian said that he can tell her favorite songs are "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "It's a Wonderful World."

Copyright © 2016, Ramona Sentinel

Available at: <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/ramona-sentinel/news/local-news/sdrs-parents-thankful-to-see-daughters-first-day-of-2016may10-story.html>