

HEALTH CHECK: CHILD'S UNUSUAL WISH FULFILLED

By Barbara Morse Silva • July 15, 2011



Credit: NBC 10 News

Welcome to The Goddard School® for Early Childhood Development, where learning is child's play.

It is in this particular class that 4-year-old Sophia Ares has blossomed.

"I've seen a major difference for her, in her speech and her walking and everything for her," said Sarah Silvaggio, Sophia's mother.

Huge strides for a little girl who's battled two brain tumors and had to undergo a year of treatments.

But last April, after eight months at this school, her parents could no longer afford the monthly tuition. It was

heartbreaking for this family that had been through so much.

Then in stepped A Wish Come True.

Usually, Disney tops the list of wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses.

"It is Disneyworld for her here," Silvaggio said.

You guessed it: Sophia being able to attend the Goddard school again was the family's wish.

"It was very different. I never had a wish where a child's wish was for preschool," said Bev Molles, of A Wish Come True.

"But you could see that she loved to be with people and you knew that that's what she would want," said Kate Burton, a volunteer wish granter.

Beginning the week of July 12, there was a big welcome back for Sophia. A Wish Come True is picking up the \$500 a month tuition, which includes two full days a week, for the next year.

"She's such a happy little girl, and we're so happy that she's back," said Lauren Bush, director of the Goddard School.

No one more so than perhaps Sophia herself. You can see it on her face.

"At the end of the day she lights up when she comes here. At the end of the day, you see her, she's talking to me. She's communicating. She's singing. She's happy," Silvaggio said.

A Wish Come True relies on donations and volunteers to continue to help make the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses come true.