



# TREETOP TALK



**Anna Shaw  
Children's Institute**

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October 2020

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## **Spina Bifida and Down Syndrome Awareness Month**

October is Spina Bifida and Down Syndrome Awareness Month. At Anna Shaw Children's Institute we celebrate all children of all abilities.

### **Down Syndrome**

Down syndrome occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21. This extra chromosome alters the course of development and causes some of the characteristics associated with Down syndrome.



One in 700 babies in the United States are born with Down syndrome. People with Down syndrome would want you to know that they have the same wants, dreams, and desires as any other person. They attend school, participate in extracurricular activities, hold jobs, have meaningful relationships, and contribute to society in many wonderful ways. Having friends who are typically developing is extremely important to social and school success. Encourage your children to be a good friend. For more information about Down syndrome, please visit [ndss.org](http://ndss.org).

### **Spina Bifida**

Spina Bifida occurs in the first 28 days of the pregnancy when the neural tube (spine, spinal cord, skull, and brain) is forming. In individuals with Spina Bifida, the tube does not close completely which can cause varying levels of disability. Spina Bifida is often referred to as a snowflake condition as no 2 persons are affected in the same way. For more information about Spina Bifida, please visit [spinabifidaassociation.org](http://spinabifidaassociation.org).

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**Meet Paisley**

Paisley is a 7 year old from Ringgold, Georgia. She is in first grade at Ringgold Elementary School. She was born with Spina Bifida and primarily uses a wheelchair for mobility. Since coming to Anna Shaw Children's Institute, she has obtained some "walking braces" and is learning to walk using a special walker. She wanted to tell you a little about herself:



**What is Your Favorite Thing to Do?**

My favorite thing to do is all my hobbies with my family. My hobbies are: drawing, painting, crafting, singing, and I've recently gotten into creating science experiments. I cannot wait to set off my first volcano.

**Where are Some of Your Favorite Places to Go?**

The Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga, because of all the "cool stuff" and Disney World because of all the princesses.

**What are Some Things That are Hard for You to Do?**

Math, math is hard, especially because it's after recess.

**What are Some of Your Favorite Things to Do When You Come to Anna Shaw Children's Institute?**

**Play with** the pizza and ice cream games, crafting, and painting.

**What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?**

Too many things. A police officer, a doctor, a nurse like mom and dad, a baker, a scientist, an artist, or a farmer. I'll decide later.

**What Would You Like People to Know About You?**

I love all the princesses especially Anna and Elsa.

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# Parent Support Group



**The Parent Support Group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm.**

All parents, grandparents, guardians, and other family members of children with special needs are invited to take part in a new parent-led Parent Support Group.

Anna Shaw Children's Institute follows social distancing and CDC safety guidelines.

- CHILDREN ARE WELCOME
- CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED
- FREE PIZZA, DRINKS, AND A FUN ACTIVITY

Southern Magnolia room on the lower level  
**Anna Shaw Children's Institute**  
1201 Burleyson Road  
Dalton, Georgia

Call to RSVP  
📞 **706.226.8911**



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[HamiltonHealth.com/children](https://HamiltonHealth.com/children)



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# GRUPO DE APOYO PARA PADRES LATINOS

Todos los padres, abuelos, guardianes, y otros miembros de la familia de niños con necesidades especiales están invitados a tomar parte en un grupo de apoyo para padres, dirigido por los padres.

Anna Shaw Children's Institute se apega a las guías de seguridad y recomendaciones de distanciamiento social de la CDC.



**Anna Shaw Children's Institute**  
Southern Magnolia Room • Primer Piso

1201 Burleyson Road  
Dalton, Georgia

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**SEGUNDO VIERNES  
DE CADA MES**

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**8:30 - 10:00 am**

[HamiltonHealth.com/children](https://HamiltonHealth.com/children)

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Join us each Wednesday on the [Hamilton Health Care System Facebook page](#) for a book reading around the tree by the Anna Shaw Children's Institute staff. There are also several pre-recorded stories on [Hamilton's YouTube channel](#). Click the picture below to watch Lynn Sams, a speech therapist at Anna Shaw Children's Institute, read *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson.



[Find out MORE](#)

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