



Dear New Parents,

If you are reading this, you have recently learned that your child has (or may have) Spina Bifida, Hydrocephalous, Chiari Malformation, lemon/banana sign, or some combination of these. Your doctor may have mentioned mobility problems, incontinence, intelligence issues, and quality of life. You are likely feeling overwhelmed, frightened, and many other emotions all at once, and it feels impossible to process. We can help. We've been in your shoes, and we know all too well how hopeless it can feel. But, as parents who have been where you are, we can assure you, it will all be OK!

We understand how difficult this time can be. You are trying to absorb a lot of information at once, but keep in mind your best sources for realistic, up-to-date information regarding Spina Bifida will be your Pediatric Neurosurgeon, who see SB kids from fetal ultrasound to adulthood, and parents of babies and children who have Spina Bifida. You may be pleasantly surprised at the encouraging prognosis the Neurosurgeon gives your child. They get to see firsthand how these babies turn out. People with Spina Bifida can attain advanced education, careers, and families of their own. They go on to lead full and productive lives. Likewise, your families here at Spina Bifida of Louisiana can give you real-life perspective on raising a child with Spina Bifida. These kids are incredible. They have dreams and aspirations, friends and hobbies, they are intelligent, funny, often mischievous, and they CAN live full, happy lives just like their peers. So, Congratulations on your new baby! We are excited to be a part of your journey, and we look forward to helping you along the way.

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