

“The absence of Sarah in that house – with the thought that we were going to lose her – was completely unbearable.”

David Smith of Crestwood

## Concert will benefit girl, 3, who suffered hours of seizures



Sarah Jane Smith, in one of the last photographs taken of her before her 5-hour seizure in March. LEFT: Sarah has had a pump implanted to deliver medication to relax her muscles enough to allow her to sit up.

## Sarah developed epilepsy and is struggling to recover, communicate

BY BECKY TSADIK  
Of the Post-Dispatch

David and Sandra Smith never imagined that they would celebrate the day their 3-year-old stuck her tongue out at them.

Their daughter, Sarah Jane Smith, was responding to a lollipop placed in front of her. Sarah, who spent her third birthday sedated in a hospital bed, is recovering from a rare five-hour seizure and a past history of similar episodes.

David and Sandra Smith, who live in Crestwood, say that friends, family and their church have been instrumental in Sarah's improvement in recent weeks. They have sent e-mails and posted hundreds of handbills; one of them established a trust fund for her because her insurance benefits may soon run out.

For now, the Smiths will continue to delight in small signs of communication.

The evening of March 27, David Smith had set up a small ladder for a household job, and Sarah was able to climb the ladder — a new accomplishment for her. But soon afterward, she went into a seizure. Her parents used medicine to bring the seizure under control, but they soon realized she wasn't breathing and rushed her to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, where she and her mother stayed overnight.

The five-hour seizure began at the hospital the next day. Doctors worked to sustain her and to control the seizure, but it continued as the hours passed. When it finally ended, a CT scan and an MRI