

Tribute to Sienna by her mom, Sharon Caballero

I just wanted to start by telling you a little bit about my daughter Sienna Rose. Sienna was a beautiful little girl, and one of the two best gifts I have ever been given (the other gift being her baby sister Skye). She had this amazing smile that was almost bigger than she was, and when she turned it your way, you could not help but smile right back. She was a bright, funny, loving, determined, sweet, special person and she made our lives beautiful.

Sienna loved Elmo and Calliou and music and dancing. She loved books and swimming and swinging on her swing. She loved to laugh and she liked it when you laughed with her. She loved her toys and exploring her world. She never met a flower she didn't like, even the weeds, and she gave new meaning to the phrase "stop and smell the roses" -- it often took us a 1/2 hour just to get from one side of our yard to the other, because she had to stop and smell each and every flower! She loved dressing up and checking herself out in the mirror! Most of all, though, Sienna loved her family, and by that I don't just mean Mommy, Daddy, Grandma, Poppy, her aunts, uncles and cousins. She loved the family who came to our house every week-- her Early Intervention teachers-- Miss Rosemary, Miss Melissa, Miss Jen, Miss Kristen, Mr John and Miss Annie. And she loved the family we came to know at DDI like Miss Nancy, Miss Fran, Miss Patty, Miss Joan and Miss Meryl, and so many others. She had all of these people wrapped around her little finger, all of these people who cared about her, played with her, laughed with her, helped her learn and grow and connect with the world around her. And as Sienna's mom, I can never thank you all enough for everything you have done for Sienna-- everyone who ever played with her, sang her a song, read her a book, held her hand, laughed with her, or even just smiled at her in passing, You helped make her life richer, and you have my unending gratitude. You carry a little bit of her in all of you, and in that way she goes on.

This memorial means so much to me and to Tony, because this place meant so much to her, and for her. She blossomed here, learning and growing, and we were so very proud of her, and of her accomplishments. I want to thank Mike O'Connell for dreaming up the idea of this space, and Esther and Alexander's Angels for bring that dream to fruition. Our heartfelt thanks also to Meryl Teitelbaum and DDI for allowing us to have this place where we can sit and think of our children and smile. Also, I'd like to thank Lauren Kelley, and Jonathan Mannette for transforming our ideas into the beautiful space we are looking at today.

If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me. I am overwhelmed with emotion. Our family is so grateful to all of you, for this beautiful site, and most of all for caring so much about Sienna and Shane. Thank you all.