

Hannah's Wish

Our 4-year-old daughter Samantha is having her first sleepover tonight. She's been here when her older sister had friends sleep over, but tonight it's her friend, just for Sammie. Four years old is a little bit young to have a sleepover. And tonight is the second sleepover in a row since older sister Taylor had a friend sleep over last night. I don't usually condone two sleepovers in a row because that would make for a very crabby Sunday. But this is a special sleepover.

Sammie's friend, Hannah, is an extraordinary little girl. She was born with a condition that made her spine grow into her brain. My daughter knows her from preschool, and then she was invited to Hannah's 4th birthday party – that's where we learned of her condition. In the weeks after the party, Sammie called Hannah to see if she could come over and play, but Hannah could not – she was scheduled to have brain surgery in early December, but it was postponed because she suffered a seizure and was also diagnosed with asthma. Then she underwent the brain surgery just before Christmas, and Sammie called her to see how she was doing. For an entire week after the surgery, Hannah was bedridden and in constant pain. She couldn't come to the phone, much less go anywhere to play. Now she's feeling better, although her symptoms are starting to reappear. So crabby Sunday, shmabby shmunday – my kids are having 2 sleepovers in a row.

Hannah's recovery wish was to sleep over at Sammie's house. And even if it involved a 4-year-old with a double sleepover, what parent would be able to refuse Hannah's wish?