



Little Rainbow Explorers, Back-to-School Bash, and More!

Patient Updates

Eddie, Jerwaun Take Small Bites and Make Big Breakthroughs



September 2026 – Eddie, 6, and Jerwaun, 4, are both charting a new course toward food exploration through colors and textures in La Rabida's newest outpatient feeding therapy program, Little Rainbow Explorers.

The program, supported by the Philly Baer Foundation, includes a therapeutic feeding group for patients who need sensory support to explore new foods of different colors and textures in a low-pressure environment with kids on a similar journey.

Ten weeks ago, Eddie could only tolerate drinking nutritional shakes as his main source of nutrition. Jerwaun ate some fruits and "beige" foods, like chips and crackers.

Now, Jerwaun uses an orange to show Speech-Language Pathologist Liz B., just how much fun he's having. Across the table, Eddie uses food-related pretend play with a toy mouth to show Senior Speech-Language Pathologist Olivia H. how he likes to explore his bright red strawberries.

[Read more about the sensory steps Eddie and Jerwaun took toward growth](#)



Do you have a comment or story to share? Contact Jerrica Valtierra, Communications Specialist, at jvaltierra@larabida.org.

La Rabida News

Back-to-School Bash

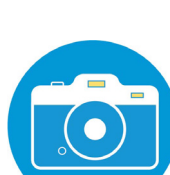


La Rabida's Annual Back-to-School Bash had it all! Birthday hats, face painting, and music set the tone for a fun birthday-themed event, as we celebrated our 130th anniversary with our patients and families. The excitement in the air led some to dance and sing together.

La Rabida's Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) sponsored the BTS Bash and donated dozens of backpacks filled with brand-new school supplies, so our patients and their siblings have the tools they need for the classroom.

Our patients and families left smiling and energized to start the new school year, and that's exactly what we wished for!

We appreciate our event sponsors, Blue Plate and Gerber + Scarpelli Photography, who helped make the event a success.



Check out more moments on the course in our Flickr album [here!](#)

Building Healthy Confident Kids, One School Year at a Time



La Rabida's Stronger Together Team kept the back-to-school support going! Dr. Natasha Bhayani, Social Worker Sam C., and Community Health Worker and Family Advocate Elaina M. handed out more than 200 backpacks to patients and their siblings.

Our families got more than just school supplies! Our Behavioral Health and Nutrition teams shared holistic tips on back-to-school routines, managing stress, and keeping nutritional choices top of mind.

****This back-to-school initiative is supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number ALN 21.027, awarded to Cook County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.*

Support Our Mission

Become a Friend of La Rabida and Celebrate 40 years of Support!



You're invited to the 40th Annual Friends of La Rabida Gala on Thursday, November 19, 2026. We'll celebrate 130 years of care for children and families in our community and beyond, and share a special recognition for all past honorees who have made our mission possible!

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this milestone celebration! **Get your tickets with our Early Bird pricing;** visit larabida.org/gala.

For more information, contact our Director of Special Events and Corporate Development, Anne Mullen, at amullen@larabida.org.



Life at La Rabida

We captured all the moments of singing, dancing and fun from our Back-to-School Bash. Check out all the photos in our [Flickr album!](#)



Follow us across all platforms!

