

# Brave Aisha is defying the doctors



**COURAGE:** Aisha Shah's mum was told she was unlikely to live past the age of two

SMNAL 10606201019334-00.jpg

by Pat Hills

A LITTLE girl whose mum was told she was unlikely to live past two has passed her fifth birthday.

Aisha Shah was born with profound disabilities but she bravely battled for life – and is still fighting.

Aisha, who lives with her family on Edenfield Avenue, Chorlton, is partially blind and deaf and suffers from severe chromosome deficiency and epilepsy. She cannot stand, walk or operate her limbs properly.

But a cuddle is all it takes to bring a smile to her lips.

A few minutes of The Little Mermaid on video full blast or a playful squeeze of the hand by her big brother six-year-old Mohammed can also make her chuckle – but she is humbly

undemanding.

“She is always fighting for her life,” said mum Sarah, 27. “She wants to live. There is no question of that. She can be so poorly and go downhill rapidly and then suddenly she bounces back.”

Aisha was delivered at St Mary's Hospital in Manchester on March 28, 2005, after a swift two-and-a-half-hour delivery and a straightforward pregnancy.

“She was a pretty little thing weighing just 6lb 10oz. It took a week for Sarah and doctors to realise something was wrong when the newborn had trouble sucking milk from her bottle and shortly afterwards the seizures began. The reality and enormity of Aisha's condition, which includes a severe curvature of the spine

known as Kypho-Scoliosis, was devastating to Sarah who also has a 14-month-old baby daughter Anisha.

However, with the unstinting support of her mum and dad Sandra and Tom, with whom she lives, she has succeeded in proving doctors wrong in their prognosis over her daughter's life expectancy.

“Aisha wants to live and we are going to make sure she does,” she said. “We have a very special bond. When she is ill and in pain I feel that pain too. There is a connexion between us that I cannot explain.”

Aisha's disabilities are so profound that they often lead to life-threatening complications and lengthy stays in hospital.

She is currently in Wythenshawe where she

has been for a month after struggling to breathe.

“They have been wonderful here,” said Sarah. “They have been so supportive.”

And the charity React, Rapid Effective Assistance for Children with potentially Terminal illness, have just bought her a specialist car seat to enable the little girl to travel comfortably and meet her postural needs.

“It was so kind and it has made a huge difference,” said Sarah, who is now hoping to get rehoused into larger accommodation so the whole family, including her parents, can give Aisha the care she needs in comfort.