



# Hemispherectomy Foundation AUSTRALIA

Hello,

I AM ME!

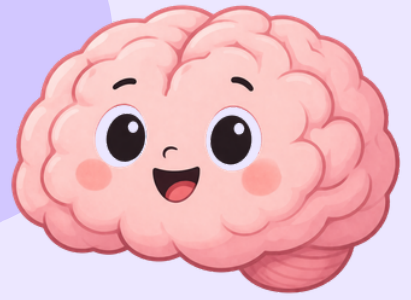




**This book is about me and my special brain. It helps my friends know more about me.**



# My amazing brain



Our brain is a very important part of our body. Our brains helps us think, move, feel, and learn new things every day.

I have had a big operation called a hemispherectomy on my brain. This operation helped my brain stay safe and healthy. Hemispherectomy is a big word. Say it like: hemi-i-sfer-ek-tuh-mee.

Because of this operation, my brain works in a special way. Everyone's brain is different and that is OK. Different is good and my brain is special in its own way.

# My body works a little differently

My body moves in its own special way.  
One side of my body is not as strong.

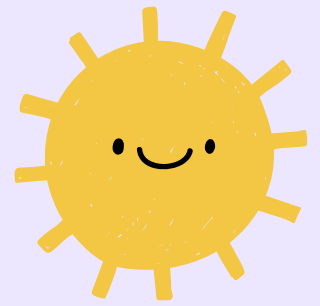
I use one hand more than the other.  
Sometimes I might need help from a person or a special tool, like for doing up zips or holding my paper when I'm drawing.

I wear a brace on my leg like this one.  
They can come in lots of different colours and patterns.

This leg brace is called an AFO and helps me move so I can play with my friends.



# Sometimes I Need Extra Space



It can be hard for me to see things on one side of my body. I might need to turn my head to see things.

Sometimes I might bump into things or people. This is not on purpose.

We can all help each other by noticing our space when we play, both inside and outside, and moving carefully around other children so everyone feels safe and happy.

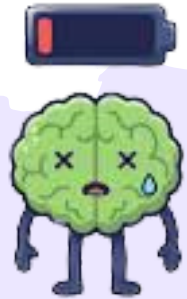


# Sometimes I get tired

Because of my big operation my brain works very hard and is doing amazing things!

Sometimes I get tired faster than other children because my brain has to work so hard.

When I am tired, I might need a rest or some calm time. After resting, I can play and learn again.



# My brain learns in its own special way

**Sometimes I need:**

- **activities shown to me**
- **things broken into small steps**
- **lots of practice**

**Breaking things into steps help my brain understand better and that's okay.**

**Everyone learns in different ways.**



# Loud or busy places can sometimes feel big

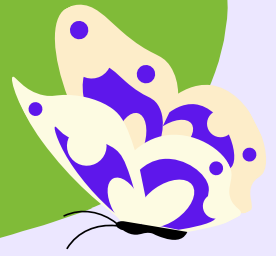
Sometimes loud sounds, bright lights, or busy places can feel too big for my brain.

When that happens, I might feel upset.

My teachers and friends can help me feel calm and safe.



# I Am a Great Friend

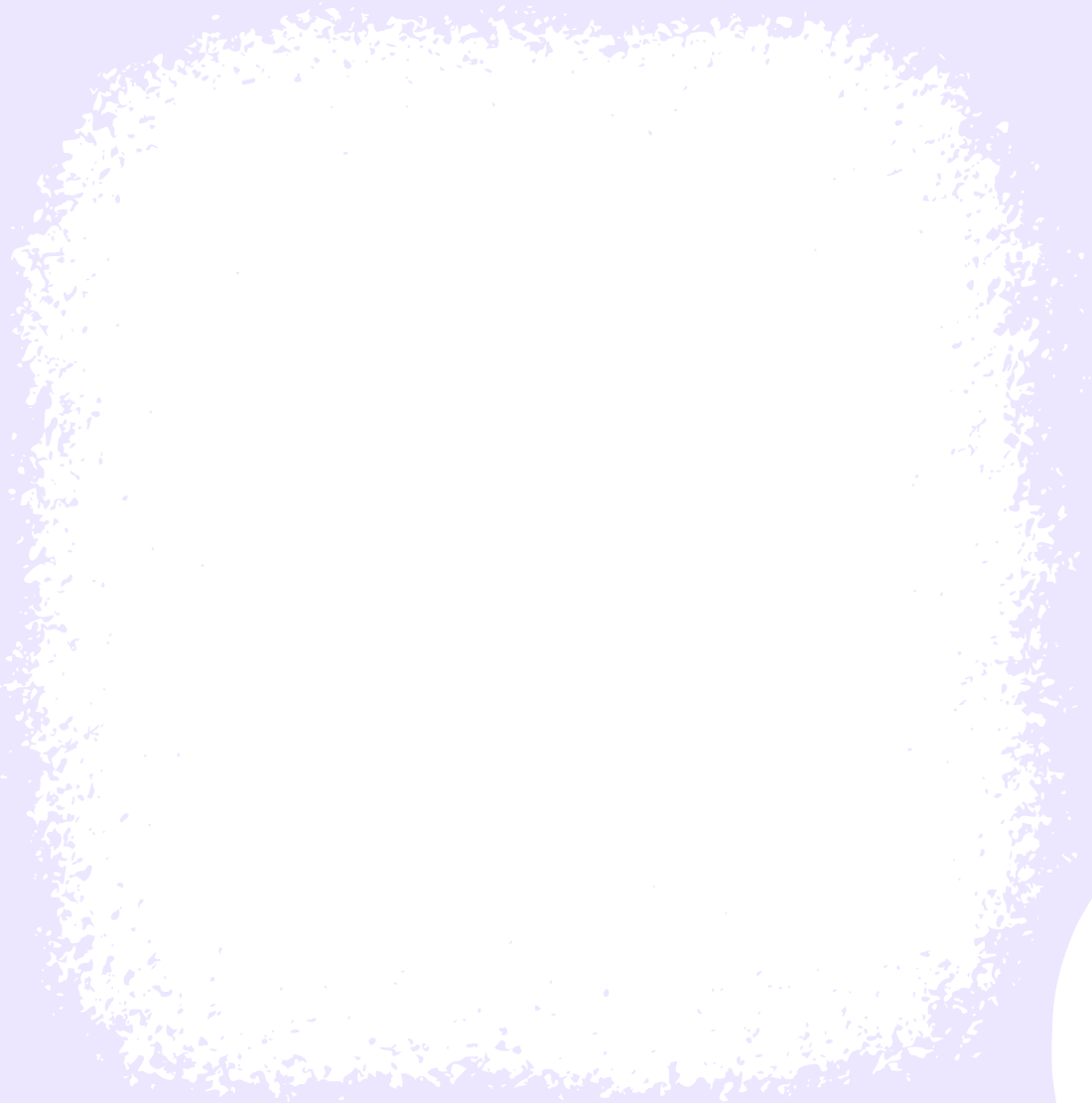


I like to play, laugh, learn and be with my friends. I am brave and I am strong.

I am a hemi hero!



# Other things about me



**Learn more**

**Learn more about the amazing brains of children who have had hemispherectomy surgery.**

**Visit Hemispherectomy Foundation Australia**



**[www.hemispherectomyaustralia.org.au](http://www.hemispherectomyaustralia.org.au)  
[info@hemispherectomyaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@hemispherectomyaustralia.org.au)**