

When a NICU doctor became a NICU parent (Broadcast)

INTRO:

AS A NEONATOLOGIST – DR. JAWAD JAVED HAS SPENT HIS CAREER CARING FOR SOME OF THE SMALLEST... AND MOST MEDICALLY FRAGILE BABIES. BUT NOTHING COULD PREPARE HIM FOR THE DAY HE BECAME A NICU PARENT HIMSELF.

TAKE VO

13 YEARS AGO... HIS SON WAS BORN IN THE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT... BORN AT JUST 32 WEEKS.

DESPITE HIS MEDICAL TRAINING... DR. JAVED SAYS HE STRUGGLED TO PROCESS INFORMATION DURING THOSE EARLY DAYS IN THE NICU. SAYING HE PROBABLY ONLY TRULY ABSORBED ABOUT 10-15 PERCENT OF WHAT WAS BEING COMMUNICATED TO HIM AND HIS WIFE. THE EXPERIENCE GAVE HIM A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT FAMILIES ARE EXPERIENCING DURING SOME OF THE MOST EMOTIONAL TIMES OF THEIR LIVES.

TAKE SOT | DR. JAWAD JAVED | DIVISION HEAD & MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF NEONATOLOGY | OSF HEALTHCARE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF ILLINOIS

"Nothing can quite prepare you for having a premature baby. It didn't matter how much I knew. My wife's a pediatrician; it didn't matter how much she knew. It's terrifying, and those first moments when the baby is born and they're rushing you off to the NICU; it is a blur."

VO TAG

NOW... HIS SON IS AN ENERGETIC... ON-THE-GO TEENAGER THAT DR. JAVED JOKES IS THE "LIFE OF THE PARTY." HE CREDITS THE NICU TEAM THAT CARED FOR HIM AS A BIG PART OF THAT.

TODAY – DR. JAVED LEADS A TEAM AT OSF HEALTHCARE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF ILLINOIS THAT PROVIDES THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF NEONATAL CARE AVAILABLE. 140 PEDIATRIC PHYSICIANS ARE INVOLVED IN CARING FOR NICU PATIENTS... PROVIDING EXPERTISE ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF SPECIALTIES. THE HOSPITAL IN PEORIA HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A LEVEL FOUR NICU BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS... THE HIGHEST DESIGNATION FOR NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE.