# Premature Baby Weighing Just Over One Pound Thrives and Goes Home from Chicago Area Hospital



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New Lenox, Ill. (AP) — Nyla Brooke Haywood, a baby girl who was born prematurely weighing just over one pound, has gone home with her parents after spending her first six months at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, Illinois. Nyla was born on November 17 at just 22 weeks due to her mother NaKeya Haywood's diagnosis of pre-eclampsia, a high-blood pressure condition. At birth, Nyla weighed 1 pound and 1 ounce (482 grams) and measured 11 inches (28 centimeters), classifying her as a "micropreemie."

On Monday, Nyla left the hospital weighing a healthy 10 pounds (4.536 grams) and measuring 21 inches (53 centimeters). Her departure was celebrated with a send-off party attended by family, friends, and hospital staff.

Dr. Mario Sanchez, a neonatologist at Silver Cross Hospital, remarked on Nyla's resilience, noting that she cried at birth and maintained a stable heart rate. Despite her underdeveloped lungs at birth that required intensive care, Nyla was sent home with oxygen and will need regular checkups to monitor potential future complications.

Extremely premature infants are increasingly receiving lifesaving treatment and surviving. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2022 highlighted that survival rates for babies born at 22 weeks have reached 30%, with higher rates for those born at 23 and 24 weeks.

Nyla's case exemplifies advancements in neonatal care, offering hope for other families facing similar challenges.