



# SPECIALIZED PEDIATRIC CARE

DAWN SANCHEZ WAS THANKFUL FOR THE EXPERT CARE HER THREE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, ISABELLA, RECEIVED FROM PEDIATRIC SPECIALIST WES MACHNOWSKI, MD, FAAP, AT MERCY PEDIATRIC CLINIC.

DR. WES MACHNOWSKI'S WARM AND REASSURING MANNER EASED THE FAMILY'S ANXIETY.



Wes Machnowski, MD, FAAP  
Mercy Pediatric Clinic

## Dawn and Everett Sanchez were concerned when they noticed their three-year-old daughter, Isabella, had blood in her stool.

At first, they misidentified the red as part of a fruit snack. The next time, they knew it was blood and called their family doctor, Dr. Jill Flory at Family Medicine Specialists, PC.

Once Dr. Flory determined the blood was coming from little Isabella's rectum, she recommended they take Isabella to pediatric specialist Wes Machnowski, MD, FAAP, at Mercy Pediatric Clinic, located in Mercy Medical Center.

Dr. Machnowski's warm and reassuring manner eased the Sanchezes' anxiety as he explained he would first do a digital (finger) exam of the lower rectum. During the exam, he felt something that warranted further investigation.

Now, he explained, he would investigate further with a flexible sigmoidoscopy under general anesthesia in Mercy's OR to see inside the large intestine, from the rectum through the last part of the colon (called the sigmoid). The procedure involves guiding a short, flexible, lighted tube into the rectum. Dr. Machnowski frequently does this procedure, as well as colonoscopies and EGDs (an endoscopy that also includes the esophagus, stomach and part of the small intestine), on children. Isabella was in expert hands.

Mercy staff added a little lightheartedness to the event by wheeling her back to surgery in a red wagon. While the 3-year-

old was too young to really understand what was going on, Dawn and Everett were worried about what he might find.

"We were very scared," says Dawn. "We were nervous — she's our youngest."

An hour later, Dr. Machnowski was showing them "before" pictures and "after" pictures, following the removal of the polyp that had caused bleeding.

The polyp was sent to pathology with good results — no cancer.

Dawn can't say enough good things about her experience with Dr. Machnowski at Mercy Pediatric Clinic. She'll return to Dr. Flory as their regular family physician, but feels reassured knowing specialized pediatric care at Mercy is available if they need it.

## Dr. Mersch receives national recognition

Mercy Pediatric Clinic's Rick Mersch, MD, FAAP, was one of seven pediatricians nationally recognized as *Parents* magazine's 2014 "Our Favorite Pediatricians." He was featured in the magazine's November issue and on its social media sites. *Parents* magazine chose Dr. Mersch for the award after receiving nine nominations on his behalf from patients during the nomination period last spring.



Rick Mersch, MD, FAAP  
Mercy Pediatric Clinic

To learn more about Mercy's specialized pediatric care, call Mercy Pediatric Clinic at  
**(319) 861-7900**