

## Rowena's Biography

By Mina Avery  
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Rowena was born on April 8, 1998. She weighed just four pounds, thirteen ounces. She won the hearts of everyone she met as she looked like a miniature adult.

When Rowena cried she didn't want you to sing to her; she wanted you to count. Nursery rhymes and songs did nothing to settle her. Counting to one hundred by ones, twos, threes,....always quieted her down.



Rowena became a big sister at the age of two. She and Pauline are good friends.

Rowena went to the library story hour for the first time when she was three months old. She still loves to listen to stories and read book. She also likes playing dress up. She especially likes anything to do with beauty salons or grooming animals.



Rowena's dad travels for work sometimes. She always enjoys visiting museums, parks and build-a-bear workshop wherever she travels.

Rowena enjoyed going to Kindergarten at Spanish Springs Elementary School. Her teacher was Mrs. Harrison and her best friend was Heather. She said, "School is fun, fun, fun!"

During first grade Rowena participated in the NIH study on girls with extra-X chromosomes. She likes to show people the MRI image of her brain. If all goes as planned she will go to Washington D.C. to have another scan this spring.

Rowena had Mrs. Wagner for first grade. Mrs. Wagner went on maternity leave so she had Mrs. Klingler at the end of the year. Rowena loved both her teachers. Math was Rowena's best subject. Spelling was her biggest weakness. Her friends were Kelly, Jane, and Jaicee.

Rowena went to UNR for speech therapy and dance class at the school. She was a chef in the Little Mermaid production.

Besides playing with friends at school, Rowena also likes going camping at Markleeville.



She is a good camp cook and likes finding unusual bugs in the woods. Last time she went camping she made friends with a boy who had flown in to the camp site. He and his dad gave Rowena a ride in their small airplane.

In second grade Rowena's teacher was Mrs. Long. Rowena learned to love science. She did a science fair project on citric acid levels in different drinks. This was interesting for Rowena as she is allergic to citric acid.

Rowena continued to like math but explains she is "good at math not fast at math." Rowena was in dance class and danced as a tiger in the Jungle Book performance.

Rowena had a sad time last spring. A new principal took over her school and Rowena was confused by the change in the rules. Doors that used to be unlocked were now locked and Rowena got locked out of building at least once. She felt "unsafe" and asked me to go to school with her. I went for a while to try to show her that things were safe but things didn't work out and Rowena ended up missing the last month of school.

She was sad about this as she loves school and being with her friends but she felt it was unsafe without me and the school didn't want me to be there.

It was a very sad time for all of us. She has met with many smart people (therapists) and feels that she will be very happy and safe at High Desert Montessori.

Rowena bounced back from the sad time very quickly. She went to Oregon twice; once with her sister and I and once for a week alone with her aunt. While there she got to cut metal with a Johnson saw, watch her cousin weld and sort bolts. Grandma also taught her about caring for chickens and ducks.

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