



Staff photo by Rob Beintema

Brittany Giberson was re-introduced to the big wide world Friday when she was released from the Hospital for Sick Children following a liver transplant and six-month stay in hospital. The 18-month-old child's parents, Heather Hames and Rob Giberson, are hoping their lives can get back to normal with a healthy baby.

### Liver transplant patient leaves hospital

## *Brittany comes home at last*

Brittany Giberson is finally back home.

After more than six months in hospital awaiting a donor liver and recovering from the operation, the 18-month-old tot was released from Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children on Friday.

About seven months ago, Brittany was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Tyrosinemia. Peculiar to just two groups of people — those of Dutch and French-Canadian/Aboriginal descent — the disease attacks the liver causing the vital organ to fail. Brittany had to wait until September for the only cure to the disorder, a liver transplant.

The operation was a success but the disease had taken a heavy toll on the child's body. Swelling caused by the diseased liver had pushed her diaphragm into her chest cavity, making it difficult to breathe.

For almost a month after the operation the tot was kept on a respirator but by mid October she was breathing on her own and her recovery accelerated.

Brittany's mother, Heather Hames, said, "I'm really hopeful things can get back to normal now. I'm tired, we're all tired. It's going to be nice to be back home."

Although the worst appears to be over, Brittany's parents must be vigilant for signs that her body may reject the transplanted organ.

In August a local mall sponsored a fall fair to raise money for the little girl. Dozens of individuals or groups have donated to her trust fund, which will be used to offset costs not covered by Ontario health insurance.

For information on how to donate call Stacey Roberts at 845-3824.