

FAMOUS PREMS

Prematurity isn't a new thing and in fact some famous names and high achievers had a premature start to life. Some were born centuries ago and battled incredible odds to survive in the first place given the conditions and knowledge at the time. They then went on to achieve incredible things in the creative, academic, science and leadership fields. Some examples are included below, with more at:

WWW.NEONATALTRUST.ORG.NZ/FAMOUS-PREMS



WAYDE VAN NIEKERK

Born at 29 weeks and weighing just over 1kg, Wayde van Niekerk's parents never thought he would survive, let alone become a successful athlete. At the Rio 2016 Olympic Games Wayde made history winning South Africa's first gold medal since readmission. He won the men's 400m event in 43.03 seconds, smashing the world record at the same time.

ANNA PAVLOVA

Born prematurely in 1881, Anna Pavlova became one of the world's most famous ballerinas. Her small size and stature, likely a result of her premature birth, set her apart from other ballerinas of the time.



ALBERT EINSTEIN

Physicist and Nobel Prize Winner in 1921, he was born early in Ulm, Germany in March 1879. Albert Einstein contributed more than any other scientist to the 20th-century vision of physical reality. At his birth, Albert's mother was reportedly frightened that her infant's head was so large and oddly shaped. His parents also worried about his intellectual development as a child due to his initial language delay and his lack of fluency until the age of nine, though he was one of the top students in his elementary school and then progressed rapidly from there.

STEVIE WONDER

Stevie Wonder was born at 34 weeks gestation in 1950. A child prodigy and hugely successful musician, he has won 22 Grammy awards and had over 30 top 10 hits. Stevie Wonder is blind due to retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a complication of prematurity caused by underdeveloped vessels on a premature baby's retinas. Through research in the years since, the incidence of vision issues is now greatly reduced.



These people were born long ago, when little of the current care and knowledge existed. Today's survival rates are markedly higher, and outcomes much better due to much more being known about the development pathway and best care practices for neonatal babies. The Neonatal Trust is proud to support research into enhanced understanding and care. Learn more at:

WWW.NEONATALTRUST.ORG.NZ/RESEARCH

Images created by the talented Tania of Drawer Full of Giants. www.drawerfullofgiants.com



The support we provide for families is delivered in a number of different ways, all aimed at

"MAKING A DIFFICULT START TO LIFE THAT LITTLE BIT EASIER"

This includes the support and education material we've developed with the help of graduate parents of a NICU and/or SCBU journey.

They are easy to read support resources on a range of different topics, including:

- **Reading to your Baby**, a practise that helps both parents and the baby
- Thoughts on, and tips for, **Bonding with your baby**
- A resource on going home, **Leaving the Unit**

To learn more about us, please head to:

www.neonataltrust.org.nz/support