

Simple wish for Smiley Riley.

My wife and I are starting this campaign to hopefully grant one simple wish for our grandson Riley.

Riley has been a little fighter ever since he was born, his journey was always going to be a long one right from the very start. He was born with a PFFD, which stands for Proximal Focal Femoral Deficiency, which is a fancy medical term for a short femur in the upper leg, and a Fibular Hemimelia, which is a missing Fibula in the lower leg, so one of his legs is longer than the other. The ankle of his short leg, was level with his knee of the other leg. He also had a fused bone in his head and no "soft spots", so he needed major Cranio-facial surgery, to correct his forehead. He was in hospital 3 months after he was born to have his forehead repaired and re molded. This was a major operation which involved removing part of his skull.

Several months later our son Dylan, Riley's father saw that something wasn't quite right with Riley's Right eye. There was a reflection in it at certain angles, it looked different compared with his left eye. After taking him to the Doctor he was sent straight to a specialist, who sent Riley for some scans. This is when we found out Riley had Retinoblastoma which is Cancer in his eye. Within a week he was sent to hospital to have his eye removed. This devastated us all. He had 6 month of chemo therapy after this to remove all of the cancer which was dangerously close to his brain.

This chemotherapy has had an adverse effect on both his, head surgery and his leg surgeries, of which I am about to explain now.

Riley has been going in and out of hospital ever since to have corrective surgeries on his leg. He had to have his Hip repaired as the top of the femur was not attached to his hip at all it was just floating there. This surgery went well, and the surgeon gave the all clear for the next step of lengthening his short leg.

Just lately Riley has had his first leg lengthening procedure which involves having an external fixator on his leg with rods attached to the bones above and below the break. They were expecting to lengthen it 7cm the first time and 7cm more later down the track. He only managed 4cm and had to stop. Then an infection started, which has been very hard on the parents.

This is when we found out that the chemo would have a bad effect with his leg and his head.

The chemo has stopped his bones from growing properly. Which has stopped his leg from healing during the leg lengthening, and his original head surgery has not healed either. This also stopped any anti-biotics from working. So now Riley has to have his leg Amputated at the knee, which is all too much for his parents to bear, after such a long struggle. They are themselves very young. After all he has been through just to have it removed now, is the straw that broke the camels back.

Riley is having trouble coming to terms with this. It's a lot to deal with for a 6 year old. He understands everything the doctors say, and knows what is about to happen, but he still has a smile for everyone. He is an astounding little boy, who just needs a break, and something to go his way for a change.

Through all of this Riley's only wish is to go on a plane ride, and swim with the dolphins at Sea World.

This Campaign is to raise fund so Riley can go on his plane trip. This is all he has wanted to do throughout all of this. None of this has changed his happy friendly nature. He astounds every one with his enthusiasm; he has a smile for everyone, and has a happy nature that is contagious for everyone he speaks to.

This is to help also to help our son Dylan, Riley's father, and Riley's mum Meagan, who are both very young parents. This has been something even the most experienced parents would have trouble dealing with, yet they have coped with all of this at such a young age. We are incredible proud of them both, for how they have handled all of this. Riley's happy, resilient, captivating, loving nature is testament to them both, at how well they have raised Riley, and at the same time raised two daughters, Riley's little sisters, Kaiesha and Kiara, despite all of the heartache and turmoil, and all they have had to endure, they all make us very proud parents and grandparents.

Riley's story can be followed at his facebook page called "The Journey with Smiley Riley".

Thank you for reading this through, and becoming part of his journey.