

Andee and Gabrielle journey.....

At 4 years of age, Ellie would ask me "why did it have to happen to me Mummy"all I can say to her is we love her no matter what.

My first encounter with Alopecia started before Ellie was even born. Back to when I was about 10 and my little sister was about 5. I was having a sleep over and she bunked in with my friend and I. We awoke in the morning and while my sister was still sleeping, I found a bald patch the size of a 5 cent piece on the back of her head. I told my Mum about it and this started a long road of tests and all sorts for my sister. Her bald spot grew to patches, but Mum could hide it with pony tails and the likes.....but then she lost eye lashes, out of just one eye. Time passed, my sisters hair grew back. The bald patches never returned for her, her hair thinned drastically when she was about 15, then again at about 22. But now she hasn't had anything like that in over 10 years.....



So back to Ellie.....she returned from a weeklong visit at her Dads in December 2012. We'd had head lice after head lice 'infestation' from her once a month, weeklong visits to Dads place for close to all of 2012, so I was constantly trying different natural remedies to get rid of the little buggers. Ellie was not quite 4. Seeing her for the first time in a week in December 2012, I noticed how thin her hair was at the sides of her head and straight away I knew what it was, after seeing similar things with my sister over the years. I took her to a local Doctor within a few days...."It's just a growing thing she is going through. She will be right, bring her back in 6 weeks"even after explaining the family history. I never went back to that doctor.....ever! I was explaining this to some ladies I work with and they suggested I go 'get a second opinion'so we did. This is when Ellie met another local Doctor and he diagnosed her with AA. This was about 10 days before Christmas 2012.



By February 2013 all of Ellie's hair had fallen out. By May, she had lost arm and leg hair, eyebrows and eyelashes too. In the first 6 months of 2013, we went to Dermatologists, Psychologists and Psychiatrists. We tried creams, ointments, tablets, diet changes.....everything. We have found the best thing that works for Ellie.....is an awesome looking hat! She gets so many comments on the different hats she wears and it makes her smile. In our short journey we have had our ups and downs.

At 4 years of age, Ellie would ask me "why did it have to happen to me Mummy"all I can say to her is we love her no matter what and it has made her extra special because there are not many other people like her in our area. She was recently diagnosed with Alopecia Universalis.

I would really like for my little girl to meet other people, especially children that are just like her.....made just that little bit different so they stand out and sparkle like a bright star.

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