



Ben, aged 3 September 2009

In 2009, at the age of 3, Ben first experienced Alopecia. He started long day care in February and the first bald spot appeared in April. After our first visit to the GP we came home with fungal cream as the GP thought it was ringworm. A month later and the round patch had grown. Another GP considered Alopecia, but had never seen a case in a child so young, and referred us to a dermatologist. In July we visited the dermatologist and she confirmed it was Alopecia. We then did lots of research to find out as much as we could about Alopecia. We spent lots of time explaining to parents, friends and family why Ben had bald patches. And we were inventive with various hair styles.

In late 2009 we went to a family Christmas Party at Narrabeen organised by the Princess Charlotte Alopecia Foundation and spent time with other families and children, learning about Alopecia. It was wonderful to see the children all playing together. It was particularly wonderful to see all the girls, who normally wear wigs, running and playing with their bald patches and obvious tufts of hair. Ben's elder sister Eliza realised how fortunate she was. She decided to grow her hair long enough so she could donate it to make a wig for another girl to enjoy. It has taken a few years of patience to reach the required length.

Whilst Ben currently enjoys a full head of hair, we are unsure when or if the bald patches will reappear. Ben has never been concerned about his bald patches. He started kindergarten last week with big smiles and a few bald patches hidden under his dark hair.

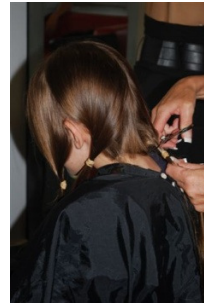
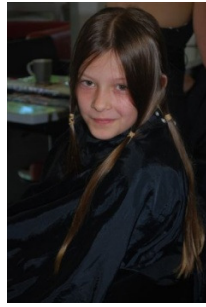
Following is Eliza's version of what happened on Saturday morning



Eliza, aged 8 Feb 2012

After a few last swishes and flicks it was time to go and see Kylie at Hair on the Avenue. We are thankful for her care and understanding.

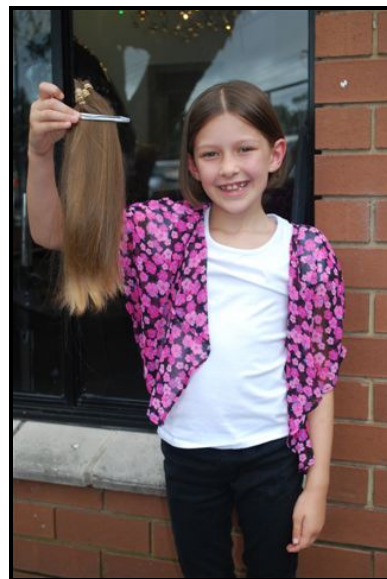




I had very long hair and now I have very short hair. This is what happened. I went to the hairdresser across the road from school. She put my hair in rubber bands and then the ponytails got chopped off individually. I like my hair this way because there are no knots. But I also liked my hair long because I could swish it.



This is my new hairstyle. I'm going to donate my hair and they are going to make a wig out of it. The wig will be used for girls that don't have hair. I feel proud of what I did.



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