

Jack 8.....What I like about my alopecia is that my friends get a good laugh when they say things like, 'you've got a butterfly on your head'

We first noticed my alopecia when I went to the hairdressers. It was two weeks before my 8th birthday.

The hairdresser saw it and she mentioned it to my father, "Look your son has a very small spot of Alopecia by his ear and needs to see a doctor".

When I went to see the Doctor he arranged for me to see a specialist in Sydney on Skype because we live in rural Darwin. The specialist got the nurse to use the computer camera to move around and show the specialist my hair patches. He gave me steroid cream to try out.

Later we saw a kids doctor in Darwin Hospital – she said to stop using the cream that it wouldn't help me long term.

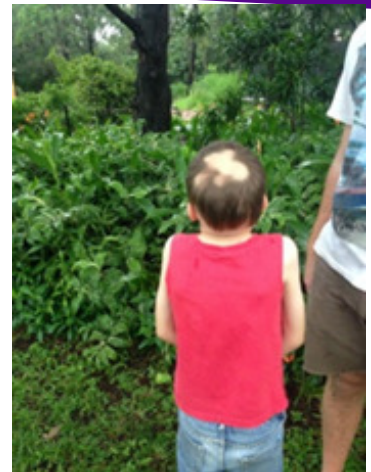
I now have no hair on my arms, legs, and part of my eyebrows, eyelashes and head.

I bought a cap from the shop for when I go out to the shops and new places because I don't like people staring at my head. I really hated all the blood tests I had to get because of my Alopecia. Swimming lessons were hard at first because there are always new kids there who make fun of me because they don't know me and ask lots of questions and I get tired of explaining.

At school when kids ask me about my head, at first I didn't want to talk about it, but then I got used to it and started to answer them because otherwise they'd keep on asking. When I'm really sick of the middle school kids asking me why I am bald I just tell them to talk to my sisters or Mum.

My class watched a video on BTN about alopecia so now most of the kids know what it is and don't ask questions anymore.

What I like about my Alopecia is that my friends get a good laugh when they say things like, 'you've got a butterfly on your head' and I am getting a lot more used to people asking questions and laughing at jokes.



I had been at my school since Transition so my friends know me very well in my class. They knew me before Alopecia and know that I'm really funny, intelligent in class and that I am always there to help out. I still like school and my teacher is great – she doesn't let anyone put anyone else down because of how they look.