

30 Days/30 Stories®

Colin

Diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at 21 months old

On March 27, 2017, Colin was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at 21 months old. Since then we've adjusted to things that every cancer family knows: Buying hand sanitizer in bulk, becoming hermits during flu season, ER trips for common fevers, medicine-dictated food curfews, frequent doctors appointments, missed holidays with family, and all the strange concoctions and bribes needed to convince kids to take medication. To us, and to Colin, this has become "normal"...but NOTHING about having a child with cancer is "normal".

Now he's 4 years-old (and still a year left in treatment) and is doing very well! He is like any other 4 year-old you meet. Talkative, rambunctious, curious, bold, silly, sweet, strong-willed (stubborn!), polite and loving. He does typical 4 year-old things like only wanting bacon, yogurt, and goldfish for dinner, trying to barter for gummies, doesn't want to eat his veggies, pretends to be a superhero, and asks A LOT of questions!

We have now entered the "Why?" stage. We decided we would always give him legitimate answers for his questions he has. "Why do spiders make webs?" "So they can catch bugs to eat." "Why does daddy have to mow the grass?" "Because it's long." "Why?" "Because it rained and it grew." "Why?" "Evaporation..Condensation..etc"

We knew someday we would get THE "Why?" "Mommy, I take medicine at the doctor, why?" "To keep your blood healthy." And usually that was a sufficient answer for him, but the "whys" continued. "Why is my blood not healthy?" No one, no book, no blog, no video. Nothing can prepare you for that. How do you explain leukemia to a 4 year-old?

If there is one thing we have learned along the way is you put on a brave face and you go with the flow...*deep breath* "Well you have good guy cells that live in your body, and they fight bad guy cells that get in. But one day when you were really small, a SUPER BIG bad guy cell got in and started making more bad guy cells, and there weren't enough good guys to fight them and you got sick. So we went to the doctor, and they saw how many bad guy cells were in your body and they knew your good guy cells needed help! So that's why when we go to the doctor you get medicine and you still take medicine every night because that medicine gives those good guy cells special tools and weapons to hunt down any bad guy cells in your body and get rid of them so you never get sick again." When the story was finished, he asked that it be retold another 6 times before bed that night because he was fascinated by his "good guy blood cells".

We're looking forward to continuing to help this curious little boy navigate his world, and we appreciate all the love and support.

If you would like to donate in Colin's honor Click Here

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