

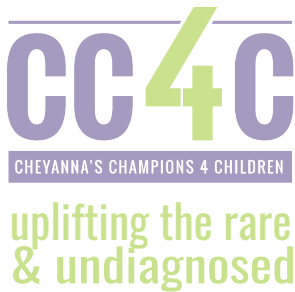
HI, MY NAME IS EMALYN

I was born in 2012... and have been diagnosed with a rare genetic deletion.



High School Team
Placeholder team name

Champion Teammate
Placeholder teammate



Emalyn at 8 months old was diagnosed with infantile scoliosis and within 3 months her curvature progressed from 20 degrees to a 53 degree curvature. This rapid progression concerned her orthopedic resulting in an MRI showing abnormality on the left ventricle of her brain and resulted in a diagnosis of colpocephaly. Emalyn is developmentally delayed and receives special education services to support her educationally.

Her neurologist then tested her for a genetic disorder and results showed a rare genetic deletion that is so rare it was not associated with any particular syndrome, or well tested. The rare genetic deletions contribute to a host of medical conditions. Emalyn had corrective heart surgery at 2 years old. When she was five years old she received a g-tube due to being significantly underweight, she also was hospitalized for five months at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital to undergo Halo traction treatment and MAGEC rod surgery, after her curvature of her spine progressed to 90 degrees.

Emalyn continues to be at risk to undergo emergency surgery related to the 200 percent complication rate associated with the MAGEC rod surgery. There is a practice in Japan known as Kintsugi also referred to the art of previous scars where they take broken ceramics and repair it with gold. The Japanese arts teaches the broken objects are not something to hide but to display with pride. Each surgery, or scar, or new diagnosis is something she takes with strides and contributes towards her resilient spirit.

Emalyn's Motto:

"You're Perfectly Beautiful"