

CARTER'S AMAZING JOURNEY - September 2008 UPDATE

Carter has changed so much in the last two months and is now standing really well. He's hanging on to the furniture for 10-15 minutes at a time to practice his standing. The braces he got on our last trip have made such a difference and he is getting so much stronger with all of the standing he is doing.



Besides being able to stand quite well these days, Carter has become a climber! He can climb into his little chair, up on to his bench, and while we were away, he had a great time getting on and off the suitcases. He's also practicing going up and down the stairs at home and only needs a little bit of help now. At our hotel in Winnipeg, Carter decided that he needed to see the Rider game from his playpen (while he was supposed to be sleeping) and pulled himself to stand without his braces on!



We had a very busy week in Montreal at the hospital. Dr. Fassier was very happy to see Carter standing and started to make arrangements for his rodding and hip surgery. The new plan is that he will try to do both the right and left sides during the same surgery. If everything is going well, it will be about a six hour surgery to finish everything. If the doctor thinks he should only complete the one side during the operation then he will do the other side one week later. One big surgery is somewhat scary, but we completely trust Dr. Fassier and would like Carter to only have one post-op and recovery time. We don't have an exact date, but the end of November was mentioned quite a few times. We will either be there for one week or two depending on the number of surgeries. Since Carter will likely need blood transfusions, Mike and I got tested to see if either of us would be a match for him. Luckily, Mike is compatible and will be able to give the blood at home and it will be sent out to Montreal for direct donation to Carter.

With Carter's bone density scan, x-rays, appointments, and lots of blood tests for all of us, we felt like we were running around a lot this time. When we did have down time, we were so excited to be able to share time with Charlie and his family. We met them on our very first trip to the hospital and were able to be there with them on our fifth trip and now our eleventh as well. They continue to be such an inspiration and support for us! There wasn't a boring minute when Charlie was around and we all enjoyed the time we could be together.

Carter kept busy in the playroom playing with a little girl his age who also has OI. She also shared the room with us this time and the two of them chatted back and forth...one in English and one in French. They were little parrots copying each other and loving every minute of it! Carter also painted a wooden truck that had been donated to the hospital. It's proudly displayed at home now!



After an eventful week, we were ready to get home, but our adventures were not yet over. When we got to the airport, our smiling WestJet worker told us that our flight had been delayed, but we could have food vouchers to fill the time. There was not much we could do about that so she sent our luggage off, gave us our food vouchers, and then found out that our flight had been cancelled completely. After some confusion, she booked us on a flight to Toronto so we could catch a different plane to Winnipeg. This seemed to be a good solution until we arrived in Toronto. While trying to board our plane to Winnipeg, the attendant asked which one of us was going on that flight and which one was on the later flight. She had booked us on two different planes and our suitcases were gone to two different places. This was enough to get me a little upset as I thought of flying home with a very tired, somewhat grouchy boy by myself. However, WestJet being as great as they are were able to get us both on the flight, but not sitting together. They couldn't promise that my luggage would arrive in Winnipeg with the rest, but we hoped for the best. It ended up that the nice lady next to me gave Mike her seat and we were able to handle the very tired and now very grouchy baby together! We all made it to Winnipeg and so did all the luggage!



Since Carter will be in a spine cast from ribs to ankles for six weeks, we are busy trying to prepare for that at home. We're not expecting it to be fun, but Carter always seems to overcome any obstacles that come his way even better than we could hope. We are more than willing to go through anything that is going to improve his health and his life. He continues to amaze us with his determination and inner strength that seem to have no limits. We have complete trust and faith in Carter's team at the hospital and have no problem handing over our son to their care. There's more excitement than fear for us at this point. We're ready for those first steps!