



Ashleigh's Disney Delight!

Eight year old Ashleigh Taylor from Coalville recently had her dearest wish to go to Disneyland Paris granted by Starlight Children's Foundation, the UK's leading wish granting charity for children with serious and terminal illnesses.

When Ashleigh was just 13 months old she was diagnosed with a type of kidney disease called Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS). Ashleigh has a particularly rare form of the condition, which is genetic and was inherited from her father Lee. Lee had to have a kidney transplant when he was ten years old and Ashleigh will also need to undergo the procedure in the future.

As a result of her condition, Ashleigh has had to endure endless hospital visits, tests and treatments from a very young age. Although she requires a restricted diet, daily medication and regular blood tests, Ashleigh is always very brave and never complains about her illness.

Like lots of girls her age, Ashleigh loves all things pink and girly and, when she's not singing and dancing along to her favourite Justin Bieber songs, Ashleigh's favourite pastime is dressing up as a the Disney princesses.

When Ashleigh was referred to Starlight for a once-in-a-lifetime wish, she said, "My wish is to go to Disneyland Paris because I just love how pretty the princess dresses are. My favourite princess is Cinderella because I have got the DVD and it makes me want to go to Disneyland!"

Ashleigh had never been abroad before and her mum Tanya knew that Ashleigh would love the adventure. She told Starlight, "A trip to Disneyland would be a dream come true for Ashleigh. She has spoken about it for so long and the thought of leaving this country makes her so excited. She has been through so much and has so much to come in the future as she will need a kidney transplant. She is a loving, gorgeous princess who has been so, so brave."

Starlight arranged a dream trip to Disneyland for Ashleigh and her parents Tanya and Lee in October. Ashleigh was so excited to travel to London St Pancras to take the train to France and couldn't believe that this would magically take her to Disneyland!

The family had been booked in to the luxurious Disney Sequoia Lodge, which is a magical forest lodge inspired by America's vast national parks. The hotel overlooks Lake Disney and is only moments away from the park, which meant that Ashleigh and her family could make the most of the excitements on offer!

With her Minnie Mouse ears, Ashleigh looked every bit the Disney princess and she and her parents had a wonderful time getting to meet all their favourite characters. Ashleigh had cuddles from Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Pluto and Donald Duck and even got to meet the Disney princesses, which was a dream come true for her!

On their return, Ashleigh's mum Tanya said, "We would like to say a huge thank you to Starlight for an amazing three days in Disneyland Paris. It was all down to you that Ashleigh's wish came true! Thank you Starlight so much!"

Information

To refer a child for a wish or to make a donation, please go online at www.starlight.org.uk. For every £1 you donate, 93p goes towards helping Starlight's very ill children.

For more information, please contact Henny Vere Nicoll at henny@starlight.org.uk / 020 7262 2881 # 231.

Starlight grants once-in-a-lifetime wishes for seriously and terminally ill children, restoring the magic and fun of childhood and giving the whole family happy memories to share, whatever the future holds.

Starlight also creates entertainment in every hospital and hospice throughout the UK. Sick children go to Starlight parties, laugh their way through pantomimes, go out on Starlight Escapes, play games and watch films on the Starlight Fun Centre, and enjoy the toys and puzzles of the Starlight Distraction Box. Happy children respond better to treatment and Starlight helps children to forget about their illness and simply have a bit of fun.