



## Starlight grants Zoe's wish to be a princess!

Seven-year-old Zoe Hague from Bradford recently had her dearest wish to be a princess granted by Starlight Children's Foundation, the UK's leading wish granting charity for children and young people with serious and terminal illnesses.

Zoe has already been through a huge amount in her young life. She suffers from a very rare condition called Currarino triad, which means that she has serious anorectal malformation and presacral mass. This affects her daily life enormously and she has had to have numerous operations throughout her childhood. Although she has had to spend a great deal of time in hospital, Zoe is a very brave little girl, who never lets her condition stand in her way.

Zoe is treated at Leeds Children's Hospital at Leeds General Infirmary and it was one of the staff there that referred her to Starlight for a wish. The charity said it would be delighted to offer Zoe a wish – she just needed to decide what her dearest wish would be!

Described by her mother Rachel as a *"quiet little girl, who likes playing with her dolls and prams"*, Zoe enjoys anything girly. She particularly likes dressing up, playing with make-up and wearing pretty dresses and shoes. Zoe has always imagined what it would be like to be a real princess and therefore she told Starlight that her wish would be to be a princess!

Zoe wrote to Starlight and said, *"My wish is to be a princess because I would like a beautiful dress."*

To make her wish come true, Starlight arranged for Zoe and her family, which included her mum Rachel and her brother Reece, aged 11, to spend a magical weekend in London in April. Every princess needs a castle and the charity arranged for the family to have a very special stay in a suite at the luxury Park Plaza County Hall, which has amazing views of the London skyline!

On arrival at the hotel, Zoe was presented with a beautiful outfit fit for a princess, which included a white floating petal dress, a pink feathered cape, pink glittery shoes and ivory spotty tights!

Starlight had organised for a horse drawn carriage to arrive at the hotel as a surprise. Zoe was absolutely overjoyed when she was told the carriage was for her and she was beaming from ear to ear when she climbed into her very own carriage!

The carriage took Zoe and her family on a scenic tour of some of London's most popular sites and on the approach to Buckingham Palace Zoe even had a chance to perfect her "royal wave"! Feeling every inch the princess, Zoe was taken to world famous toy store Hamleys for a shopping spree. She had an amazing time there, watching all the toy demonstrations and enjoying the Build-A-Bear workshop.

To make sure the family made the most of their trip to London, Starlight had booked tickets for the Lion King for that evening. The West End show, which is a much-loved family classic, was the perfect ending to a very special weekend for Princess Zoe and her family!

## **Information**

To refer a child for a wish or to make a donation, please go online at [www.starlight.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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.