

PAIGE'S STORY

October 29th 2018 is a day Kate and James will never forget. It was the day their bubbly five-year-old daughter Paige was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

"It was such a shock," Kate said. "Within hours of a blood test, Paige was diagnosed with cancer."

Paige needed to start treatment immediately in Sydney-hours from their Canberra home.

Suddenly instead of dancing and having fun with her sister Phoebe, Paige was in hospital for months on end. Chemotherapy left her exhausted, in pain and often too unwell to leave her hospital bed.

Ultimately, the family made the difficult decision to relocate to Sydney.

Thankfully, amid the family's pain and sadness, Starlight was there helping them cope with Paige's illness and treatment.

On days when Paige couldn't leave her room, Captain Starlight would visit her with fun and games to lift her mood helping her get through her long days confined to the hospital ward.

When she was feeling well enough, Paige loved visiting the Starlight Express Room to take a break from treatment.

Kate said, "The Starlight Express Room is an extremely important and magical place. When I told Paige after nine months that she wouldn't be having treatment in Sydney anymore, she said: 'But I'll miss the Starlight Express Room.' I think that sums up what Starlight means to her."



Paige and her sister, Phoebe, loved visiting the Starlight Express Room to take a break from the hospital ward



Paige and her sister with a real life mermaid on her Starlight Wish

There was more Starlight magic to come, when Paige was granted her Starlight Wish.

She was over the moon with happiness! Planning her wish gave her something fun and positive to focus on.

Before her diagnosis, Paige and her sister loved holiday time together playing mermaids in the pool. So, for her Starlight Wish she asked to go to the Gold Coast and meet a mermaid!

When the big day arrived, Paige had the most exciting surprise waiting for her- a special video message from two mermaids called Lunar and Echo!

Paige and Phoebe went to the pool to meet the mermaids wearing their very own mermaid tails. The girls had so much fun swimming and playing games. The mermaids even brought special shells for the girls to listen to the sounds of the ocean.

There were more family adventures at SeaWorld at MovieWorld.

It was a magical time for the family to come together again after so much time apart and helped create new happy memories to cherish forever.

“Everything Starlight does puts a smile on very sick little peoples' faces who are in situations where there aren't many smiles to go around,” James said. “Starlight has been our light and what they do for families like ours is so important.”

–Kate, Paige's mum

For more information visit starlight.org.au or call 1300 727 827