

Finley

“It makes all the difference to have a staff that’s trained and knowledgeable.”

- Amanda, Finley’s Mom

When Finley’s family explored their dream of having another baby, that journey led them to adoption.

In the same moment they met Finley at just one day old, they also learned that she had a congenital heart defect – transposition of the great arteries (TGA) – meaning that the vessels that pumped blood to her heart were connected the wrong way.

Finley had to undergo lifesaving surgery where the experts at Valley Children’s repaired her heart by correcting the transposition, allowing proper blood circulation. “This is actually a very technically challenging operation,” says Dr. Malcolm MacDonald, Finley’s pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon at Valley Children’s regarding her arterial switch. “But when it goes well, fortunately, it goes very, very well.”

“I think the hardest period of that month was definitely the first 10 to 12 days,” Amanda says.

Finley made a full recovery and her parents were thrilled to take their little girl home.

“With Finley we’re just so fortunate that one surgery was able to repair the condition and now it’s just about following up,” she says. Valley Children’s staff always makes sure Finley feels comfortable on her yearly visits, according to Amanda. “Especially when she was younger, if she was fighting the echocardiogram, they would just not do it. They’re very patient with her.”

“I mean, even Dr. MacDonald himself is actually from Stanford – he’s Stanford-trained,” she said. “...We don’t feel like we need to leave the Valley to get great care.”

Finley has grown into a rambunctious little girl who loves reading her “Frozen” books and playing dress-up. When not in preschool, the smiley 3-year-old can be seen rushing around her Fresno home, playing with her older sister and her dolls. She continues to visit the expert staff at Valley Children’s for a physical every year and her family continues to cherish the family they always dreamed of.

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