

Ayla Rain Campbell was born with multiple severe heart conditions called hypoplastic right heart syndrome, tricuspid atresia and transposition of the great arteries. That essentially means she was born with half a heart and the half she did have wasn't normal either. When she was a week old she had her first open heart surgery and she had her second one at 2 1/2 months old. During that time we struggled with getting her to find the strength to eat with her weak heart, she would always get out of breath and turn blue from her oxygen levels dropping and she also had severe reflux. When she was just four months old we put a gtube in to help her eat. Two days later she developed a blood clot in her heart and with that came some arrhythmia's and when those two she had are combined they can occasionally cause your heart to stop, that is what happened with her. It took the hospital 25 minutes of cpr to bring her back to us (she wasn't expected to survive the weekend) because of that happening she developed seizures, severe oral aversion where she would choke on her own saliva every time she would swallow, she developed right-sided weakness, and with the lack of oxygen in her brain she has severe brain damage, she doesn't speak more than a few words and those words she can't pronounce properly, still doesn't eat much by mouth and her hand movement is severely limited. When she was 3 years old we found out that she was in heart failure due to a severe leaky valve. She got weaker as time went on and the only option was a heart transplant. We waited a year and a half and on January 9, 2016 we got the call for her new heart and January 10th her new heart was placed in. She was home after only two months! We still have our complications and issues that arise but we are very thankful for this new chance at a new life for her. She can now keep up with the other children when she was never able to do that before, she can now take part in her favorite activities which is baseball and horseback riding. She is the epitome of strong and brave. She is my hero and I aspire to be like her every day. She never lets anything get her down. Even when she's very sick she doesn't act like it and the doctors and hospital staff are always shocked at how sick she is without acting like it. She's amazing!