

# Meet Landon

Landon was born in April 2006 in Jacksonville, Florida. At just two months old, Nemours Children's Audiology & ENT in Jacksonville, Florida diagnosed Landon with bilateral hearing loss – the reduction of hearing in both ears, affecting the ability to understand speech and other sounds. By three months, Landon was fitted with hearing aids, but even then, we sensed there was more to his story. His pediatrician, Enrique Silva, MD was there for us from day one reminding us that there might not be answers right now, but that he would do everything he could to help lead us in the right direction and give Landon the best care.

Despite our best efforts, the answers did not come easily. Landon's developmental milestones were delayed, both physically and intellectually. He also experienced frequent fractures, even minor bumps or falls could result in broken bones. For years, we searched for clarity.

Finally, at the age of seven, Landon was diagnosed with osteogenesis imperfecta (OI), a rare genetic condition that explained the fragility of his bones. Shortly after, our family relocated to New Jersey for work. Leaving behind our Florida support system and the medical team we were familiar with was difficult and felt so uncertain, but we were about to find something extraordinary.

Not long after settling into our new home, we found Nemours Children's Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware. There, Landon received the most specialized and compassionate care we could have imagined. The Genetics and Orthopedics teams welcomed us with expertise and warmth. It was also at Nemours Children's that we received a second diagnosis: cerebral palsy – a group of disorders that affect movement and muscle tone. This helped explain Landon's other delays and gave us a fuller understanding of his needs.

Since arriving at Nemours Children's, Jeanne M. Franzone, MD has thoughtfully overseen Landon's orthopedic needs and care. Then in 2020 and 2022, Landon underwent two life-changing spinal surgeries performed by Suken A. Shah, MD. Both doctors have played a vital role in his progress. With their care, Landon's confidence has grown tremendously and with a stronger spine Landon is now able to take in more of the world.

Through it all, Landon has met every challenge with a joyful spirit and an unwavering determination to do his best. He genuinely looks forward to his appointments at Nemours Children's. He sees his doctors and nurses as more than just their titles—they are his trusted friends and cherished companions on this journey.

Today, Landon enjoys school, working at the school store and playing driving games on his PlayStation 5. He is fiercely independent, often telling us, "I can do it on my own." He cherishes his family and thanks to his journey, that family has grown through the amazing people we have met along the way.

Landon's story is still unfolding, and we are so excited to be there alongside him. He approaches each new experience with courage, strength and unwavering happiness.

