

Every step counts for children like Gaby

Evita's daughter Gaby was born with half a heart – a rare condition called hypoplastic left heart syndrome. There's no cure, so her family cherishes every moment together.

Derian House has become a lifeline. Weekly playgroup sessions give Gaby the chance to make friends and enjoy being a child, while Evita can relax, knowing her daughter is safe and happy.

The family can't travel abroad, so a free week's stay at the hospice's Lake District lodge meant everything.

"The break gave us the chance to relax and enjoy the peace and quiet – no worries about paying the bills or hospital appointments, just time to focus on being a family.

"Gaby may have been born with only half a heart, but we are filling it with the most amount of love a heart can hold."

together
for short
lives

**99,000
steps challenge**

together
for short
lives



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Every step helps professionals like Caroline

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steps challenge

Meet Caroline, a Wellbeing Worker at Derian House. Caroline is one of many children's hospice heroes who go the extra mile every day to support children like Gaby.

"My job involves a little bit of everything - from running our in-house activities and day trips, to creating precious mementoes for families. Every day is different and busy, but so fun.

"Gaby first came to playgroup with her mum and dad. I think her family were a little bit nervous about coming in at first, as a lot of our families are, because we're a hospice. But we welcomed them like we do any of our families, and they began visiting quite regularly.

"I have seen Gaby blossom into the independent little lady that she is. It's really nice to see her personality come out. She is just full of life and always enjoying herself. That's what it's all about. Seeing our children smiling, making memories, and having a fantastic time."

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for short
lives



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