



Tahlia's Stollery Story

Tahlia, born on December 10th, 2017, at 34 weeks premature, had a challenging start but quickly thrived after her release from the NICU. However, during her 1-year check-up, her pediatrician noticed she was pale and ordered bloodwork, revealing low iron levels. Although she initially took iron supplements, her condition worsened, and further tests showed critically low hemoglobin. Despite Tahlia appearing healthy and active, her blood results led to a sudden hospitalization at the Stollery Children's Hospital.

After being sent home twice and retested, her condition worsened, and the doctors realized she needed an immediate blood transfusion. The situation escalated quickly, and Tahlia underwent the transfusion in two parts, monitored closely for 12 hours each time. She was treated in a surgery recovery unit, with non-pediatric nurses, which made the experience even more overwhelming. Despite the care, Tahlia was upset and uncomfortable due to the constant medical procedures. The Child Life Specialists were down to see us regularly and while they became her favourite people when we had to go back in for follow up, I spent most of that stay cradling her in my arms soothing her.

When we finally got through the blood transfusion we were sent home with a rigorous follow up schedule. Thankfully, all follow up went smoothly and a year after this nightmare started, we finally got the all clear. Tahlia has not had any further issues with her blood, however, she still has challenges that she is steadily overcoming due to being premature and having issues with her sugar levels at birth. She is a rockstar and a fighter.

Anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Tahlia is quickly engulfed by her jubilant smile, boisterous attitude and she melts everyone's hearts. If you happen to see her on the sidelines of her big brother's games, she will surely come say hi and charm you with her stories. You'll also see her on the flag field representing her Rams pride. While we were not with the Rams when Tahlia's Stollery journey took place, we soon learned a couple years later what being a part of the Rams's Family really means. She has been on a football field since she was 3 years old and last year in 2024 she finally got to live her dream of playing Ram's football. Look out world, she's back on the field for 2025 and ready to make some waves!