

An Enchanted True Story

Catherine had to overcome physical obstacles in her life. With the help of the Cleft Lip and Palate Program she was able to and...



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Today she is a Certified Surgical Technologist for the pediatric department at Johns Hopkins Children's Center—sub specializing in plastic and reconstructive surgeries.



Department of Health
and Human Services
*Maine People Living
Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives*

Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

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For more information about cleft lip and/or cleft palate, contact your doctor or the Maine Cleft Lip & Palate Program.

Maine CDC
Children with Special Health Needs

*Cleft Lip and Palate Program
286 Water Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011*

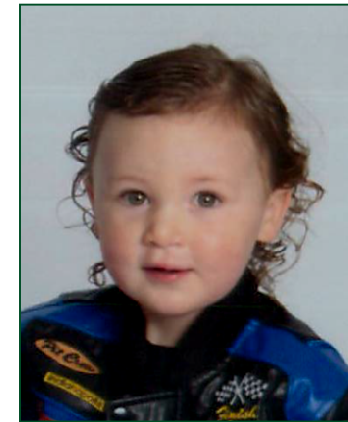
*Phone: 207-287-4802
Toll Free: 1-800-698-3624
All TTY users call Maine Relay 711*

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/cshn/index.html>

Maine CDC Children with Special Health Needs

Cleft Lip and Palate Program

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*Completing smiles one
child at a time.*



Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention
*An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services*

Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

The Maine Cleft Lip and Palate Program provides:

- Hospital / Home visits for families
- Feeding Assessments for Infants
- Special Bottle Supply
- Information and referrals for services
- Care coordination
- Clinical team care
- Parent to parent support

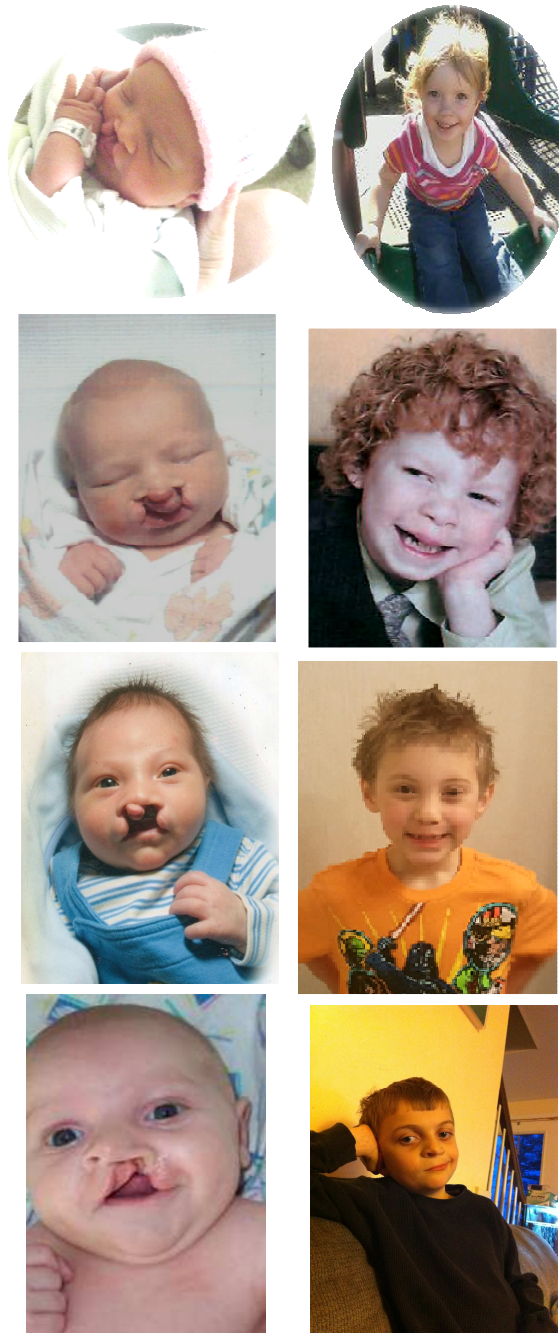
The Maine Cleft Lip and Palate Clinics:

- Are available in Bangor and Portland
- Provide early and ongoing evaluation and treatment planning
- Maintain membership in the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA)

The clinical team is made up of professionals with expertise in the care of children with cleft lip and/or palate. Families will have access to the following specialists: Audiologist, Ear/Nose/Throat Specialist, Geneticist, Genetics Counselor, Nurse, Oral Surgeon, Orthodontist, Pediatric Dentist, Pediatrician, Plastic Surgeon, Prosthodontist, Social Worker, Speech/Language Pathologist and Clinical Coordinator.

The clinical team will talk with you, examine your child and review the following: surgical needs, dental care, ear care, hearing, educational needs, feeding strategies, medical and family history, nutritional needs, overall health, physical development and speech/language development.

Then & Now



Common Questions:

What is cleft lip? What is cleft palate?

A cleft lip is an opening in the lip. A cleft palate is an opening in the roof of the mouth. Clefts happen because of incomplete development of the lip or palate while this area is forming during pregnancy.

Why didn't our baby's mouth fully develop?

We don't know the answer to this question, but you can be assured that it was not because you did something wrong. It was not your fault.

Will we have trouble feeding our baby?

Some babies with clefts have few problems feeding, while others have more difficulty. Use of special bottles and careful positioning of the baby are sometimes helpful. Your primary care physician or feeding specialist can give you proper guidance.

How will our baby's treatment be paid for?

Health insurance will pay for all or part of the necessary care. Additional financial assistance may be available if you meet income guidelines.

What if we have more questions?

Ask your baby's doctor or contact the Maine Cleft Lip and Palate Program. See contact information on the back of this brochure.