

In April 2006, Will was born in Washington, DC. He was the youngest of three boys - his older brothers were two and one at the time (three boys under three!). Will looked very different from his brothers due to the fact that his eyes were a little closer together than the other boys'. After settling in at home, Will's parents noticed what they thought was a small bump on Will's forehead. At his 2-month check-up, they asked the pediatrician about it. He thought it was nothing to worry about, but told them to keep an eye on it and come back in a month if it hadn't gone away. A month later, Will was back at the doctor's office, and was referred to a neurologist. In the meantime, Will's mom began Googling craniofacial terms, and when she got to metopic craniosynostosis, it was clear that's what Will had. All of the photos of other babies with the condition had a remarkable resemblance to Will from the eyes up. It explained on the web site that most children with metopic craniosynostosis require surgery, so they were prepared when the neurologist confirmed this. They were then referred to Dr. Robert Keating at Children's National Medical Center.



Will had his first visit with Dr. Keating at about 4 months old. Surgery was scheduled for a month and a half later. In the meantime, Will was developing very well, hitting all of his milestones, and was a very happy baby. His CT Scan checked out normal, so his parents and Dr. Keating agreed that the surgery was a cosmetic issue at that point. To the naked eye, people didn't seem to notice Will's ridge on his head, or the fact that his eyes were close together, but he was a classic case of metopic cranio.



On September 20, 2006, Will and his parents checked into Children's, where he underwent surgery for several hours. All went well, and Will spent that night recovering in the PICU. The next day, Will was moved into his own room, and by the next afternoon, Will was discharged. He made a remarkable recovery, although it wasn't easy. He came home from the hospital more like a newborn - crying a lot and having a hard time sleeping. His parents worried about his head, his stitches, and his brothers hurting him. It was also strange getting used to his new "look." The surgery had changed his eye spacing, so his whole face seemed to look different. It was almost like

bringing home a new baby, which was a difficult adjustment. Fortunately, within about a week at home, Will started getting back to his usual self, and everyone got used to his new look, especially after the swelling went down.



Will is now 4 years old, and is a happy, active kid. People are shocked when they hear about his ordeal. He looks great, and fortunately has a thick head of hair to cover his "headband" scar. That, and pictures, are the main reminders of what the family went through when Will was a baby.



Will's family is so grateful to and highly recommends Dr. Keating's team at Children's (Dr. Michael Boyajian was the Plastic Surgeon) for this surgery. Will's mom understands that families going through this need to talk to someone who has already been there, so she serves as a mentor for the Jorge Posada Foundation.

