



Oscar-Ray is cared for at Acorns in the Black Country, from this hospice we provide support to children and families across Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Shropshire and Staffordshire.

Just two days after Oscar-Ray was born, he began having seizures and was whisked to the hospital neonatal unit to be observed by a specialist team. Mum Charlotte's world was turned upside down.

*"At their worst, Oscar would have as many as five seizures every hour. I didn't know what was happening - all I knew at the beginning was tests and hospitals."*

It was an agonising three months before doctors were able to confirm a diagnosis: Migrating Partial Seizures of Infancy - a serious form of epilepsy that starts early on in life and causes severe developmental delays.

*"Oscar is now two but he's unable to sit or hold his own head. He's still like a newborn baby and requires 24 hour, round-the-clock care."*

*"When we were finally able to come home, my anxiety was through of the roof. Adjusting took a while."*

*"In a way I was grieving for the child that I thought I was going to have. To be told that Oscar's got a life limiting condition and that children with his condition don't usually live past early childhood, there's so much to take in and so many emotions."*

Charlotte was introduced to Acorns Children's Hospice as a place where she could find the specialist care and support she needed, not just for Oscar-Ray, but for herself too.

Initially Charlotte was reluctant and anxious about going to a children's hospice, but the specialist staff at Acorns in the Black Country soon felt like family.

*"The thought of leaving Oscar at the beginning was like, no. I didn't ever think I would do that."*

*"Now I'd be lost without Acorns. I can't leave Oscar with just anybody, Acorns has been amazing. I'm allowed to just take him there and I get the freedom to unwind."*

Charlotte is now focussed on making sure every moment counts and, with the help of Acorns, she and Oscar are creating memories to treasure forever.

*"Oscar's seizures make him really sleepy, so I try and get a lot in when he's awake. I don't want him to ever miss out."*

*"He gets to do so much at Acorns. I never thought that Oscar would make cards and crafts but at Acorns he does. They're precious things that I can hold on to. They're things I'm going to have forever."*