

Local non-profit building special playground for 4-year-old with rare condition

by Samantha Spitz | Wednesday, April 13th 2022



Pictured left to right: Finnley Couchman, Codi Couchman



RICHLAND, Wash. — A local non-profit is bringing some joy to a 4-year-old girl diagnosed with a rare condition.

Finnley Couchman was diagnosed with Coffin-Siris Syndrome (CSS) when she was nine months old.

Her mother, Codi Couchman, said due to the genetic condition, Finnley isn't able to walk or sit-up without some help.

"There's only 200 cases documented in the world, so we don't have a lot of information," Codi said. "Her specific variant, there's only four of her, so she's a unicorn amongst unicorns."

She said Finnley can't enjoy a lot of the playgrounds other kids can, but the [Wishing Star Foundation](#), an organization that grants wishes to kids with terminal or life-threatening illnesses, is changing that.

The foundation is building Finnley her very own inclusive backyard playground that will also incorporate her therapies.

"Being able to have that space in our backyard where it's safe and allows her to play like a normal kid is going to be really incredible," Codi said.

As a single mother, Codi said it's been challenging, but also very rewarding.

"Raising her is a blessing, but it's hard," Codi said. "She's taught me so much about strength and genuine love. She'll never have a mean bone in her body."

Plans for Finnley's playground are underway at her house in Richland.

Codi said they're hoping it will be complete before the end of summer.