



You wouldn't guess by looking at him, but Lucas was born with four heart defects.

Hard to believe, but Lucas was born with not one, but four heart defects. And at just two and a half, has already been through two open-heart surgeries and multiple procedures to correct the defects. Congenital heart disease is among the most common birth defect in children today, affecting approximately 1 out of every 125 newborns. That's why Columbus Children's Hospital's Heart Center is so vital to children like Lucas.

As one of the nation's leading heart centers with nationally recognized heart specialists and one of the most sophisticated cardiac catheterization labs found across the country, Children's Heart Center has the resources to care for the most complex congenital heart conditions.

With two open-heart surgeries – his "boo-boo" as he calls it – and multiple procedures at Children's behind him, Lucas is stronger than ever. He will continue receiving checkups every six months, and as he grows, he will require at least two more surgeries. But for now, he's off and running with enough spirit and energy to light up a room.

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Congenital heart defects are due to incomplete or abnormal development of a newborn baby's heart. Because these defects often compromise the heart's ability to pump blood and deliver oxygen, there are often telltale signs, including:

- Low energy level
- Bluish tinge of the lips and tongue
- Increased rate of breathing or difficulty breathing
- No appetite and no weight gain
- Weak pulse or abnormal heartbeat

For more information on Columbus Children's Heart Center visit www.columbuschildrens.com/heartcenter

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