Rosie wants to take her dog Milo to the park, but his collar is missing! Rosie and Mummy start their collar investigation – will they find it at the hospital, in the garden or at the park?

Rosie's story aims to encourage conversations about cystic fibrosis and how it can affect the lives of people with the condition and their families.
The Lost Collar Investigation
My name is Rosie. I live in an orange house with my mummy, daddy and big brother Bobby. Oh, and of course, our fuzzy yellow dog, Milo!

Here he is... “Hi Milo!”
My family is a bit different to other families.

We have a disco ball in our kitchen, my brother dresses in black **ALL THE TIME** and my mummy has cystic fibrosis, but I call it CF. Have you heard of CF? No?

Well it’s something you only get if you’re born with it, and it makes your lungs sticky inside, which gives you a cough and can make you feel poorly sometimes. 

Mummy also has to eat more than other mummies and take special eating pills, because CF can affect your tummy too.
We have fun in our family. Like today. Daddy helps me to get dressed and lets me wear my favourite sparkly mermaid top, big blue bow, plum party skirt AND purple tights. Once I’m all dressed I go to give Milo his shiny purple collar – but I can’t find it anywhere.
I run downstairs for breakfast.

Mummy has made pancakes – woohoo, I love pancakes! We all eat up our pancakes. I have banana with mine, Bobby has peanut butter AND jam with his (which I think is gross!), Daddy has his plain (boring!) and Mummy has honey and her special tablets that help her get all the good stuff from her food into her body and keep her healthy.

I’ve decorated Mummy’s tablet box with stickers and sparkles – it looks much better now.

After brekkie, I check in the cupboards, on the bookshelf, in the fridge, out in the garden, under the rug – EVERYWHERE – for the collar, but I can’t find it. Mummy says, “Come on little miss detective, we need to take Bobby to school and then I have my hospital appointment. We’ll investigate later.”
Once we’ve dropped Bobby off at school, Mummy and I hop on the bus to go to the hospital for her check-up, just to make sure that her lungs and tummy are doing alright.

When Mummy goes for her appointments, she blows into a tube that checks her breathing. It’s to make sure she doesn’t have too much yucky, sticky stuff in her lungs.
Dr Chan looks after Mummy, she’s really friendly and even lets me sit in her special wheelie chair and draw pictures at her desk. While I’m here I figure I might as well continue my collar search, so I have a quick look around the room – I even check inside the tubes but can’t find it anywhere!
Afterwards Mummy takes me to the park. It’s so much fun but I am sad that Milo couldn’t come. Mummy says, “Milo needs his collar otherwise he might run off and get lost.”

I go on a hunt around Milo’s favourite spots in the park to see if his collar is there – but it’s not!

When Mummy takes me to the ice cream van, I ask the lady if she’s seen the collar, but again no luck!

Where can it be?
When we get home from the park, Mummy has to take medicine from a special machine called a nebuliser. It’s funny, because even though she doesn’t feel poorly just now she still coughs a lot and has to take lots of medicines. Mummy says that CF is a part of her, just like Daddy needing glasses and Milo’s fuzzy fur are a part of them. She says that even though she coughs, her CF isn’t catching, so she can’t give it to Daddy or Bobby or me.
Mummy and I have done lots today, but sometimes she doesn’t feel so well and needs to have a little rest in bed. To help her feel better, I like to paint her colourful pictures and Bobby will turn his music down so that it doesn’t disturb her.

When Mummy is feeling really poorly, she has to go to hospital. Dr Chan gives her medicine through a tube in her arm, and sometimes she has to stay for a long time. Daddy, Bobby and I visit her all the time and give her lots of hugs to try to make her happy. We even bring her paw print cards from Milo!

After Mummy has finished with her nebuliser, she grabs the magnifying glass and joins me and Milo on The Lost Collar Investigation.

We look all over the house and in the garden and come up with nothing but some old, squidgy raisins, Lego cards and one of Milo’s old toys.
Mummy and I are very tired and hungry after all our hard work, but what’s that? Yay! It’s Daddy and Bobby and they have PIZZA!

It’s finally bedtime, so Mummy helps me with my PJs, and Milo and I snuggle under the covers. As Daddy puts my dirty socks in the laundry basket he notices something sparkly and purple, and he pulls out…

MILO’S SPECIAL COLLAR!

“You found it!” we cheer and Mummy puts the collar back on Milo. “He must have wanted it washed,” laughs Mummy.
you found it!
Milo wags his tail and we settle down to sleep. Mummy and Daddy turn off the lights. The mystery has been solved!

THE END.
Things to chat about

- Can you tell me anything about Rosie’s family?
- How is Rosie’s family different from ours?
- How is Rosie’s family similar to ours?
- Did you like the box that Rosie decorated? What’s it for?
- Why does Rosie’s mum have to take tablets?
- Why does Rosie’s mum have to see Dr Chan?
- Why couldn’t Milo go to the park with Rosie and her mum?
- Why does Rosie’s mum sometimes have to go to hospital?
- Were you surprised when the collar was found in the laundry basket?
- Where do you think the best hiding place for the collar would be?

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust is very grateful to everyone who helped create The Lost Collar Investigation. Children, parents, people with CF and CF clinicians all played a hand in writing the story and advising on imagery - thank you very much!

More information

Your CF team or the Cystic Fibrosis Trust helpline will be able to provide additional support and information. Our trained helpline staff can provide a listening ear, practical advice or direct you to other sources of information and support. The helpline can be contacted by calling 0300 373 1000 or emailing helpline@cysticfibrosis.org.uk. Find out more about helpline opening hours by visiting cysticfibrosis.org.uk/helpline.

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