



ABOUT ACHONDROPLASIA

- **Achondroplasia** is the most common form of restricted growth (sometimes referred to as dwarfism).
- Children and adults with the condition have **short arms and legs** but an **average sized trunk**.
- Achondroplasia occurs in around one in every **26,000 births**.
- It is caused by **inheriting an altered gene** from just **one parent**. If **both parents** have achondroplasia, they have a **50%** chance of having a child who has the condition and a **25%** chance of having a child of average height.
- Over **80%** of children with achondroplasia are born to parents of average height. This is due to a new gene change occurring, as neither of the parents carry the altered gene.
- The condition is **not life threatening** and it has no influence over someone's intelligence.

About George (age 13) and Carys (age 10)

Genetic disorder: Achondroplasia (Dwarfism)

George likes: Playing on the Nintendo Wii; watching TV and helping with coaching wheelchair basketball.

George dislikes: When people stare and laugh at him and treat him younger than he is.

Carys likes: Swimming, watching TV, playing and socialising with friends.

Carys dislikes: When people laugh and make comments about her size.

Home town: Derby

Mum: Denise

Dad: Willie

Unaffected siblings: Stepsister Zowie

GENETIC DISORDERS

- **Genes** are made out of **DNA** and most contain **instructions for making proteins**.
- **Genetic disorders** are the biggest cause of death for children aged 14 and under.
- A **genetic disorder** happens when a **change** in one or more genes causes **vital proteins** in the body to be **missing or faulty**.
- Some other examples of genetic disorders include **Cystic Fibrosis, Sickle Cell Anaemia, Huntington's Disease** and **Haemophilia**.

USEFUL LINKS

- **Restricted Growth Association**
www.restrictedgrowth.co.uk
More about living with Achondroplasia
- **Living with Dwarfism: A film by the Wellcome Trust**
www.youtube.com/user/wellcometrust
(scroll down the choices on the right of the screen to find the film)

- **Foundation:** Knowledge and understanding of the world; Personal, social and emotional development
- **KS1 Science:** Ourselves; Human variation.
- **KS2 Science:** Moving and growing – bones and skeletons
- **KS1/2 PSHE and Citizenship:** Respecting the differences between people; Community cohesion; Disability rights

FOR MORE RESOURCES LIKE THESE AND TO SIGN UP FOR JEANS FOR GENES DAY, VISIT US AT WWW.JEANSFORGENES.ORG

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