



ABOUT ACHONDROPLASIA

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

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.

GENETIC DISORDERS

Genes are made out of **DNA** and most contain **instructions for making proteins**.

A **genetic disorder** happens when a **change** in one or more genes causes **vital proteins** in the body to be **missing or faulty**.

Genetic disorders are the biggest cause of death for children aged 14 and under.

Some other examples of genetic disorders include **Cystic Fibrosis**, **Sickle Cell Anaemia**, **Huntington's Disease** and **Haemophilia**.

CURRICULUM LINKS

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

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)

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

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A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare

