

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PROSTHETICS Case study 3



Hollie* – Age 8

Date of amputation: 5 months old

Reason for amputation: Meningitis



Hollie is an 8 year old girl who contracted Meningitis and Septicaemia at 5 months old, resulting in both of her legs being amputated, one above the knee and one below knee.

The family was initially devastated but accepted that Hollie was alive and if they could cope with her surviving Meningitis they could cope with anything. At each stage of Hollie's journey there have been barriers and also many achievements including relearning to sit up without her legs, the fitting of the first prostheses, first walk with crutches and of course her first blades.

The family have had to face challenges including not only their own emotions but other people's reactions, limbs not fitting properly and of course the constant battle to make Hollie's childhood as normal as possible, especially with the addition of a little brother. The family have felt that they have learned to cope well, trying not to look too far into the future and take each day by day. Attempting not to overthink the possible outcomes and particularly staying away from worst case scenario thoughts.

Hollie has always been keen to keep up with her peers but has struggled with her mobility which has sometimes been an obstacle to a happy smiling little girl. Her parents have had to learn to hold back and encourage independence knowing that they know their child better than anyone.

She received her activity blades in April 2017 and the family have seen the huge impact that it has had on her life. Hollie had always been a happy little girl but she is now far more confident and independent. One of the biggest challenges for the family has been the constant stares, something that having an activity limb has helped her deal with. Hollie now smiles and is happy to accept people's reactions. Hollie is prepared to attempt things that would have been out of the question before. Hollie has for

the first time been able to walk and run without crutches.

Hollie has shown great progression not only in her physical activity but also in her confidence and independence. The family feel that the activity limbs have made a significant difference in her life and although she has always been a positive little girl, she is now able to try things that she wouldn't have done before. This has enabled the family to spend time together doing family activities like walks and cycling.

Hollie has asked if she can return to

dance class at school next term, now she has her blades. Hollie recently had the wonderful opportunity to take part in a workshop with the dancers group Diversity. This workshop was for children with activity limbs and in particular blades.

Hollie is a keen swimmer and enjoys attending her local group of Brownies.

She has recently started cycling and will be joining horse riding classes shortly. She recently asked to join Tai Kwan Do with her brother, which the family are delighted about, something she didn't have the confidence to attempt before her activity limbs.

The family attended the LimbPower Junior Games in September and her parents said that they would never have attempted a day like this before she was issued with her blades.

Hollie stood out so much at the LimbPower Junior Games, that she was chosen by

LimbPower to be the poster girl for the current Department of Health supported Fundamental Skills Workshop programme. She was thrilled to take this poster along to show everyone at school.

This child received their activity prosthesis through the Children's Prosthetic Fund from the Department of Health and administered by LimbPower. Please ask your Limb Centre if you want to know more about how to access this fund.

**Please note that the names of the children have been changed to protect their identities.*

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