

Natasha's Story

Missing left arm below elbow



Hi, my name is Natasha, and I'm 13 years old. I always had my left arm missing, from below the elbow, since birth, so I've never been used to having two hands then adapting after.

Ever since I can remember, I've always been asked about why I have no left hand and I don't normally mind, but if loads of people come up together and they all ask individually then I get a bit annoyed, but I try to keep calm. In every new situation, I find myself in, I know that at least one person is sure to walk up and ask why I'm missing an arm, so I sometimes wear my prosthetic arm for the first bit until they get used to the idea.

I've always had people around me to help me stay positive, whether it's my family, my friends, or even just a book-character in my head to help, and I just want to be treated normally. Often when I first get a new teacher they ask me if there's anything that I need to help me, and I say no, but if there is I'll tell them. One of the things I really hate is if someone treats me differently, especially in public, because I just want to be treated like they would anyone else.

I have been doing gymnastics since I was 3½, and I now help coach younger gymnasts in other classes. I recently took part in the south-east novice floor and vault and came 6th in my section, and I asked the judges to treat me as if I had 2 hands, so I'm extremely proud of that. Also, the hospital I go to for my arms gave me an arm to help me with gym so I can do a lot more now as well.

At school I also do a club where we build and race an electronic car-we're currently 8th in the world! And the team and I are currently adapting the car so I can drive it next season; <http://collingwoodcollege.com/page/?title=Status+Racing+Team&pid=482> – which will be great fun hopefully.

I also enjoy other activities, including playing the trumpet-which I play in a youth



wind orchestra and have lessons, and am taking my grade 5 in it, dancing (jazz and musical theatre), which I do once a week on Fridays and recently performed with a professional integrated circus company, called Extraordinary Bodies, in a show called Weighting, along with a mix of disabled and fully able circus performers, which was awesome, and I would do it again if I could. I've also appeared in a local pantomime annually since I was five.

I'm not perfect, nobody is, it's just that my difference is more obvious than most people's, and I just remember that there are other people like me all over the world who feel the same as me, which is why LimbPower is so special to me, and so many other people.