

Case study 2

James* – Age 9

Date of amputation: birth (no amputation)

Reason for amputation:

Unilateral Congenital Limb Disorder

James was born with a unilateral congenital limb disorder. He has had an activity limb since he was six years old. Due to relocation there was some uncertainty about whether this prescription would continue.

Through the current Children's Prosthetic Fund, James has been able to apply for a new activity blade. Having used an activity limb for over three years his parents feel it would have been psychologically and physically challenging to take it away from him.

James is an active and sporty child, wanting to be involved in everything. He does sometimes find it challenging to deal with the restrictions of a prosthetic limb and has emotionally been very keen to have some control in his life. It has been particularly helpful for him to have a choice regarding which leg he will wear for an activity. James knows the benefits of both his day leg with a knee and his activity blade, which doesn't have a knee joint and is straight legged.

Both his parents and school saw a great improvement in his social interactions with his peers on receipt of his activity blade and James started to join in with football and rugby sessions. He enjoys dancing, horse-riding and rock climbing.

James actually sees his activity limb as his normal leg, as it allows him to run around like an average 9 year old. He has been able to enjoy days out with the school, forest lessons and even enjoy a week away with his class.

James' parents liken the access to an activity limb as being able to provide your child with the correct footwear for running around and engaging in activities. Saying that, you would not expect your child to complete a cross country in a pair of formal dress shoes. James' activity limb has allowed him to engage in as normal a life as possible and has also helped us as a family



to enjoy activities such as long dog walks and days out climbing and walking.

James continues to achieve new activities and his confidence is helped by his ability to enjoy inclusion at school and home. He recently received a bravery award and was a little perplexed as to why.

*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.*

LimbPower, Whitecroft, Tandridge Lane, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6LL T: 07503 030702 E: andy@limbpower.com W: www.limbpower.com

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