

ARTHRITIS 
NEW ZEALAND

ENABLING A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

KAIPONAPONA AOTEAROA

Te whakapiki i te kounga ora

Children with Arthritis



Presented by Francesca Holloway

Abby has arthritis



How can my child have arthritis ?

- Challenging ingrained stereotypes of arthritis- arthritis in children is seen as contradictory such is the stereotype of arthritis and old age
- Denial and shock are usual first reactions.

I'd never heard of arthritis in kids- it was like hearing a foreign language

Sometimes people

think you are

Making it up

Not only
old people get
it!

How does arthritis affect children?

- Arthritis in children is an autoimmune illness called Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)
- Its cause is unknown and it cannot be prevented
- The immune system becomes confused and attacks normal healthy cells of the body rather than invading foreign bodies such as bacteria or viruses.

How many children have arthritis?

- National Paediatric Rheumatology Service estimate that there are about 800 children in New Zealand with arthritis at any one time.
- Professor Ross Petty an international expert on children with arthritis estimates that there is also significant under diagnosis.

There are as many children with arthritis in New Zealand as there are who have child cancer

We provide

- Camps for children and carers
- National parent support group- Kids with Arthritis New Zealand
- Education and information for teachers and schools
- Peer support



Advocacy role

- Children and young people are one of the priority population groups for Arthritis New Zealand
- Challenging stereotypes and the ***It's just a bit of arthritis mentality***

