



## Speaking from Experience Arthritis in Childhood

### Transcript for chapter 8 of 9: The next step

**Sharryn has a son, 12 years, with arthritis:** It'll be interesting, how much effect arthritis has on him, and how much he can ignore it when he goes through adolescence and puberty and girls and that sort of thing. I don't know whether I'm finding that he's trying to hide his legs because he doesn't think they look good. I don't know, that's just the next step.

**Conrad and Doune have a daughter, 7 years, with arthritis:** Just as quickly as it entered her body and spread through her joints, it's actually now... the swelling has gone in her fingers, her knee's right down, her ribs... she's had it in her rib area and it's just amazing. So it's a very difficult thing to predict, I think, as to what it's going to be like in six months time.

**David and Michelle have a daughter, 5 years, with arthritis:** Through what we're trying to get her to do, as in taking her own medication, sorting out her physio so that she knows that she needs to do it - we're hoping that she'll learn to manage her arthritis well and cope with it well as an adult if carries through that far.

**Conrad and Doune:** I've become a bit more open to not knowing how it's going to turn out and of course hoping, but not putting too much into that.

**Robert, 18 years, has Polyarticular Arthritis:** I do know that there's some sort of chance of growing out of arthritis. It might be slim, it might be big. The doctors told me of people who have grown out of it, and they're leading quite a normal life now. And others just have to put up with it I guess. So there is that hope out there that we may grow out of it one day.

**David and Michelle:** It's not a death sentence, it'll never kill her. She'll just find restrictions she can't have, and she has got to learn that "I can't do that because it'll hurt me too much." She has got to learn that there are some things that she won't be able to do to live a fairly normal life.