

Alec's Story

"My name is Alec and I am 10 years old. I have a condition called Oosteogenesis impefecta. It means my bones break very easy; they are a bit like uncooked spaghetti! I have had over 38 broken bones since I was born. My bones always ache when it's cold and wet. Quite often I have to use my wheelchair to keep me safe from being injured by crowded busy places.

I don't always need to use my wheelchair, at the moment I am really good so I'm not using it that much. Last year I used my chair all the time for 8 months as my legs kept breaking!!

I have a manual wheelchair which the NHS supply for me. But it is sometimes impossible for me to be independent in it, especially if I have broken my arm. I have to be pushed all the time and I hate it! I have to go where the grown up wants me to and not where I want to!! Pushing myself is dangerous as well as I can break my wrists or fingers just by moving myself around as my manual chair is so heavy. When I use it at school I am pushed around the whole time and have to wait for a grown up.

In November I was really lucky to be given a **Powered Wheelchair** by Whizz-Kidz. Now I can go off with my friends when I want and play with them in the playground; it is such fun! I can now walk to school although mum now has to jog to keep up with me! Having my powered wheelchair this Christmas meant that for the first time ever I could really be part of school celebrations. We all walked in a really long crocodile down to the church and back. Up to this year I have always felt a bit left out but I was able to be right in the middle of it all using my shiny new chair.

When we go on big days out I have to use my chair and be pushed as I get so tired and my bones hurt loads. We often have to go home earlier than I want as I hurt so much. I am now really looking forward to this year because now I have my chair I will be able to off with my friends more and give mum a rest and I won't have to listen to mum's chattering!!

Before I went to **Wheelchair Skills Training** I wasn't confident in my chair and I would only be pushed around. I would not try and move myself. After going to Wheelchair Skills Training I became much more independent and I can now do wheelies in my manual chair which is great fun and which really scares mum! I also go to **Ambassador Clubs** and have made loads of friends. Before I joined the clubs and became involved with Whizz-Kidz I didn't know anyone else who used a chair as I go to a mainstream school. I felt very different! Now I realise that I am different but I have a voice that should be heard. Clubs have given me the confidence to do this. I've also been really lucky and through Whizz-Kidz have met Lewis Hamilton and the Blue Peter Team! It was an amazing day and I had so much fun. I have also accepted cheques for the charity, been involved with **campaigning** and made so many friends.

Please help Whizz Kidz raise more money to help kids like me to have more fun and to feel like normal kids. It will help us to stop feeling so different and isolated. Please, help them make life fun!"

For more information about Whizz-Kidz, please contact:

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