

# Brittle Bones

**It is important to try to treat a child with Brittle Bones as normally as possible to ensure a healthy emotional development that will lead to independence.**

## Useful Website

[www.brittlebone.org](http://www.brittlebone.org)

## For further information on this issue please contact:

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## GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

# Basic Facts for Leaders

# Brittle Bones



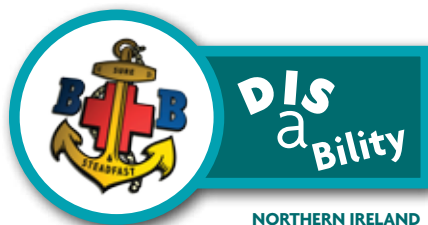
## General Features

Brittle Bones is a genetic disorder known medically as Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI).

- It is not caused by a lack of Calcium
- About 1 in 20,000 (approx.) babies are born with Brittle Bones
- There is no cure at present
- Some children are born with fractures, some suffer them soon after birth and others when they first start to walk.
- There is evidence to show that adolescents do not fracture as frequently as younger children

## How Can We Help?

- Talk to the parents and the child
- Seek advice from an Occupational Therapist
- Make use of specially adapted keyboards or voice activated packages for computers if finger movements are restricted.
- For handwriting problems consider;
  - A sloping desk
  - Different sizes/shapes of pen
  - Seating arrangements
- Make sure everyone is aware and there is a clear protocol to deal with a break should it occur
- Use a small cue card for the child to call for help (often reluctant to do so because they do not like to feel any more different than they are already)



## What are the characteristics?

- Some children are of normal stature and simply more fragile
- Some children are more severely affected, can be of short stature and unable to walk
- Children with the severe type may have spent much of their early life lying on their back in plaster
- Children may have lax joints and loose muscles that lead to difficulties with fine motor skills
- Children with Brittle Bones are often left-handed because they experience fewer breaks with that arm.
- PE and games are not generally recommended
- More unusual characteristics include a triangular shaped face, progressive limbs, deformities, chronic back pain and hearing difficulties.