

Children With Arthritis?



It is a common misconception that only “old” people are afflicted with arthritis. Did you know that nearly 300,000 children and teens in the U.S. have been diagnosed with some form of arthritis? July is Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month.

Children with juvenile arthritis suffer from various autoimmune forms of arthritis. Their bodies' immune systems attack their joints, causing swelling, stiffness and permanent damage. This condition is extremely serious; if left untreated it can result in blindness, loss of mobility and even death.

When juvenile arthritis first shows its symptoms in a child's body, many parents write off swollen joints and fever as a flu bug, or think that a sudden rash might have occurred from an allergic reaction.

The symptoms might even recede slightly before showing up again, sometimes delaying diagnosis for quite some time. That's why it's important to know the common symptoms of juvenile arthritis and get medical help as early as possible.

Common symptoms are:

- Joint pain
- Swelling
- Fever
- Stiffness
- Rash
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Loss of appetite
- Inflammation of the eye
- Difficulty with daily living activities such as walking, dressing and playing

To learn more about juvenile (or adult) arthritis and/or participate in the Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Campaign, visit **The Arthritis Foundation** or **The Arthritis National Research Foundation**

