# Celine's New Splints

## Written together by Celine and Scope

Illustrated by Karen Tennent Hi, my name is Celine and I am eight years old.

I have trouble standing and walking.

Jean is a physio who helps me stretch my legs.

When I was four, Jean said she wanted me to wear some special leg splints to help me stand and walk.

They are made of plastic and keep your feet and ankles in a good position. Lots of other children wear them too, even my friend Oran. His splints are different from mine and don't have any hinges.

You wear the splints over your socks and then put your shoes on top. I didn't want to wear them at first. I didn't know what they were and was worried. I wanted to keep wearing my pink trainers. Each splint is specially made. Mum took me to the hospital. I was a bit scared but the people were nice.

They measured my feet and made a plaster cast with funny wet bandages, which felt very cold. When the bandages had gone hard they were cut off with a special pair of scissors.

They showed me lots, in different colours – even rainbows. Some had cartoons on them.

I nearly chose combat ones like Oran's but in the end I got pink ones to go with my trainers. When they were ready, mum took me back to the hospital. I tried them on and it felt funny at first and I then had to practise wearing them for a bit every day. I had to say if it rubbed.

After about a week I started to wear them all day. Oran only wears his for a few hours at a time.

> Of course we wear them when we are sitting down but also when we are riding our bikes, and we wear them to the park, when we go shopping, to parties and at school. Everywhere!

And the best news of all, they went well with my pink trainers.

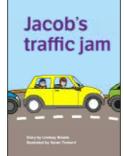
I have had a few since then because when your feet grow, you have to go back to hospital to get new ones. Next time I am having white ones to go with my new trainers!

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