Moxie & Sparx

Explain NF1
Hey Maria, wanna come outside and play kick ball?

I do, but I can’t right now. My mom is getting ready to take me to the doctor’s office.

Why do you have to go to the doctor so much? It’s not fair!

Moxie and Sparx!

Don’t worry, Maria! We know everything there is to know about NF!

Want some help explaining it?

Look, it’s Moxie and Sparx!

You say it like “nuh-row-fi-bro-ma-toe-sis.” It’s called NF1 for short.

What does that mean?

Well... um... it’s hard to explain.

It’s because I have NF1.

Huh?

Neurofibromatosis Type 1.

Huh?

Okay, I’m gonna have NF my whole life, so I might as well get good at talking about it.

Want some help explaining it?

That’s the right attitude! Come on.

Whooosh!
NF includes NEUROFIBROMATOSIS and SCHWANNOMATOSIS.

There are several different types of NF.

Which type do you have, Maria?

I have NF1.

My parents found out when I was born with these spots, they call them cafe au lait spots, cuz they're brown like coffee.

NF1 is the most common type of NF. 1 in 2,500 people are born with NF1.

Some people with NF1 get bumps on their skin, or inside their body.

They're called tumors.

NF1 causes tumors to grow on nerves.

Right!

But most people with NF1 won't have any serious problems at all.

A tumor from NF can grow anywhere that there are nerves.

Can you catch it?

No one can catch NF from touching or being near a person with it.

And NF is not the result of anything the parents of a child with NF did wrong.
Lots of the kids who have NF have a hard time in school, which is why it’s really important for teachers to know about it too.

Sometimes people with NF have freckling.

Or problems with their eyes.

Or trouble with their bones.

NF affects each person who has it differently.

Some kids with NF have a hard time learning new things.

It’s okay to ask for help!

Nf can affect any part of the body.

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NF can affect any part of the body.
I guess I know more about NF than I realized.

I'm sorry that you have NF, Maria.

You don't need to be sorry.

I'm used to it. You'll get used to it too.

NF is just one thing about Maria. Like having brown hair or being able to throw a ball.

That's why I don't mind going to the doctor, 'cause I know they want to keep me healthy and strong!

Thanks Moxie and Sparx!

No need to thank us, Maria.

Looks like you've got this!

You should teach the world all about NF, Maria.

Maybe I will, Jackson... maybe I will.

I'm used to it. You'll get used to it too.

We're all different!

Let's end NF!

To be continued at ctf.org.
Neurofibromatosis Type 1, or NF1, is a genetic condition that causes tumors to grow on nerves.

NF1 occurs in 2,500 births.

The Children's Tumor Foundation (CTF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding treatments for people living with NF. To do this, CTF drives research, expands knowledge, and advances care for the NF community.