



Video 2:
The Story of an Ability Activist

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- Chaeli Mycroft** I do see myself as an activist. I question and challenge the way things are and I feel like people with disabilities don't have to struggle the way that we do often and I feel like society is capable of – of being accepting. It's just, people need to challenge society to do that.
- Zelda Mycroft**
 CEO: Chaeli Campaign Chaeli was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when she was eleven months old. We weren't told at birth that she was disabled, because we'd already created this image in our heads of our perfect child and when she was diagnosed, it didn't change the fact that she was still our perfect child. She was diagnosed as having a degenerative neuropathy when she was six years old.
- At that point we stopped focusing on what Chaeli supposedly could not do; and we started focusing on the can-do elements of her ability, not on labelling her disability.
- Chaeli Mycroft** I think moms and dads are – are – they have such an incredible role in – in a child's life. Umm, and the – my parents have – have raised me in a way that I have expectations of myself and I was always treated the same way that my sister was and there was no difference between the things that I did and the things that she did.
- Zelda Mycroft**
 CEO: Chaeli Campaign So often, people focus on trying to improve the things that our children can't do and there is a ceiling to that and we don't often-enough explore the things that our children can do.
- Chaeli Mycroft** I think parents need to have belief in their children and to give them the opportunities that – that they see for their children.
- Zelda Mycroft**
 CEO: Chaeli Campaign We call Chaeli an 'ability activist' as opposed to a disability activist, because she doesn't focus on her disability and impairments. Sometimes we need to flex the ability muscles instead of strengthening the disability muscles.
- Chaeli Mycroft** I think I – I make people see things differently because I'm just living my life and I'm living my life the way that I want to. And I'm doing the things that my peers who are able-bodied are doing and I think by living in that way it's making people realise that there's no reason why disabled people have to live differently.
- That's why I am an activist.

ENDS