

BOY, 10, WHO WOULD OVERHEAT IN PE LESSONS DUE TO RARE SWEAT GLAND CONDITION TAKES UP SNOWBOARDING

(Extract from local and national newspapers)



A schoolboy who has been unable to play sports because he suffers from a rare condition which means his body dangerously overheats has found the perfect pastime in snowboarding. Thomas Pettigrew, 10, is wowing seasoned pros on the slopes by performing tricks and stunts at free styling events.

The youngster can't join in PE lessons at school because he suffers from Hypohidrotic Ectodermal Dysplasia and has fewer sweat glands than normal. This makes it difficult for his body to cool down naturally. He has found snowboarding to be the ideal sport, but the ice-cool temperatures on the mountains mean Thomas can slide down the slopes to his heart's content.

His father Richard, 36, who works at a time company, sprung upon the idea of taking Thomas snowboarding in March last year.

Now while other children look forward to playing outside in the sunshine, Thomas is plying his new trade at the SNO!Zone in Castleford, temperatures of -5C.

Mr Pettigrew, of Doncaster, said: 'When Thomas tries most sports he stop when he gets too hot, but that never happens with snowboarding. might just take off a layer of clothes but that's it. I was surprised how he was when he started. He fell over like most people do when they but he got right back up again. He was quick picking up the basics.'



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'He now goes every week for three or four hours.'

Thomas, pictured with his mother Kerry and father Richard: He is one of only 7,000 people who suffer from Hypohidrotic Ectodermal Dysplasia

'He's been so enthusiastic about his snowboarding that he's even persuaded me to have a go so we can enjoy it together, but I'm not quite up to his standard yet.'

Thomas's worried parents have spent the past 10 years watching the schoolboy for any signs of overheating, only taking him on holiday in the cooler months. Richard said: 'He gets lethargic if he overheats and we do whatever it takes to cool his temperature such as putting him in the car with the air conditioner blasting or running cold baths.'

Richard won a year-long slope pass at SNO!zone last year and gave his prize to Thomas, who still has to go to hospital regularly for check-ups.