

Children with disabilities

You're not alone

"When I found out that Josie was disabled I didn't know how I was going to cope. I just didn't think I'd be able to do it alone. Pretty soon I realised I didn't have to."

- Disability affects some 15% of people in the UK at some time in their lives
- Your child is protected by the Disability Discrimination Act
- The Government, your local Council, Education and Health authorities are there to help
- You may be able to receive financial help to assist with caring for your child
- There are many forms of extra services and support available to you and your child
- Support groups, parent groups and other organisations are out there to help you cope

If your child has a disability the future may seem like a real struggle, not just for them, but for you too.

The word 'disabled' covers a very wide range of different conditions and it is thought that 15% of people in the UK have some form of disability at some time in their lives. Remember you and your child are not alone.

The Government, local Council, Health and Education Authorities give a wide range of benefits, facilities, support and advice for children with disabilities and their carers.

Health

From the start, your Doctor and local Health Service are there for you. They'll give the help and advice you need to discover and assess your child's disability. They'll help you plan the treatment, therapy, equipment and ongoing medical care that your child may need.

Make contact

On the left you'll find a list of contacts that you may find useful. You're not alone, so make contact today and get the support you need.

Special Educational Needs

Most children with special educational needs attend mainstream schools, and are educated with children of their age. Extra resources and specialist support are available to make sure that your child receives the appropriate educational provision. A very small number of children have special needs which are more severe or complex that they cannot be supported properly in mainstream schools and may attend one of our two special schools. All pupils in special schools have a Statement of Special Educational Needs and this is a condition of entry.

If you think that your child has special needs, you should talk to their class teacher. If your child is under school age, you can discuss your concerns with your Health Visitor, GP or early years setting. You can also contact the Parent Partnership Service on 01983 825548.

Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

Disabled children and young people should have the same opportunities in accessing services and education as non-disabled children and young people, where possible. Disabled children and young people are protected from discrimination by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). The DDA says that a person is disabled if he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial, long term and adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

*Check the ACPC website for the latest phone numbers:
www.iwight.com/parents*

In 2002 it became unlawful for schools to discriminate against disabled pupils. A school discriminates if:

- It treats a disabled pupil or prospective pupil less favourably for a reason related to their disability and without justification.
- It fails to take reasonable steps to avoid placing disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage.

Schools are also required to develop plans to improve access for disabled pupils by: making written information accessible in a variety of ways, make improvements to the school buildings to increase access; and to making access to the curriculum easier.

ACTION

Don't think you have to go it alone.

Get as much information as you can about your child's condition. Find out what services, support, benefits and advice is available and make contact.

WHAT TO SAY

There are many organisations specially set up to give support and advice to parents

of children with a disability. Contact them and tell your story. There will be others out there just like you.

WARNING SIGNS

Some children's disabilities are spotted early. Others take time to appear or happen suddenly. If you think your child may have some form of disability, contact your Health Visitor or GP for advice.

PREVENTION

You can't stop your child's condition.

But you can help with the disability they experience by making sure that they get the best support available, and by remembering that they have rights.

CONTACTS

- *IW Parent Partnership
01983 825548*
- *Early Years Support
Service
01983 528645*
- *Oak House Multi Agency
service
01983 814540*
- *Speech and Language
Therapy Service
01983 521948*

*Check the ACPC website for the latest phone numbers:
www.iwight.com/parents*