



Hampshire
County Council

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



Children with special educational needs

Physical Disabilities

This leaflet is for parents and carers who are concerned about their child's physical development and mobility and how it will affect his/her education. If you are concerned that your child may have problems with his/her co-ordination or mobility it is advisable to talk to your GP or Health Visitor. It is important that any potential physical disabilities are identified as early as possible so that appropriate treatment can be provided.

What is a physical disability?

A physical disability is usually the result of a condition affecting mobility or upper limb disorders or motor co-ordination in terms of fine and gross motor skills, diagnosed by a consultant, which has an impact on lifestyle, work, movement and independence etc. For some children with physical disabilities, potential barriers to learning and participation may need to be identified and additional arrangements and support will be needed to overcome these.

What type of physical disabilities are there?

There are many conditions which may result in a child having a physical disability. Detailed information about each condition can be obtained from your child's consultant, Teacher Adviser for Physical Disability, Contact a Family (CAF) (www.cafamily.org.uk or Tel: 0808 808 3555) and the Internet.

What do I do if my child appears to have co-ordination or mobility problems?

You may wish to talk to your family doctor, health visitor or school nurse who can refer your child to a consultant, if they consider it appropriate.

How can I help my child?

If your child is being seen or supported by professionals such as those listed in this booklet, talk to them or the staff in the pre-school / school about how you can help, for example with appropriate activities at home or at weekends and holidays.

What other professionals may be involved?

A number of other professionals may be involved with your child in a multi-disciplinary approach. Professionals in local services work together and share information to support children, families and those working with them.

Consultant

A specialist in the clinical assessment and treatment of physical conditions.

General Practitioner

Concerned with the general health of the child and family.

Health Visitor

Health visitors are qualified nurses with additional training in community health care. They offer practical support and advice to families from the antenatal period onwards. They carry out developmental checks and advise on a variety of issues including disabilities and special needs, feeding, sleep problems, crying, behaviour, toilet training and continence. The Health Visitor can be contacted through your doctor's surgery or at the local health centre or clinic.

Portage Worker

A home visitor offering support, advice and ideas for pre-school children with special educational needs

Paediatric Occupational Therapist

Paediatric occupational therapists aim to support the development of children who have difficulties affecting their daily life and independence at home and school. Areas assessed and treated may include gross and fine motor skills, play and self-help.

Occupational therapists use standardised and non-standardised assessments, which may include clinical observations. These, along with information from parents/carers and other professionals, enable the identification of specific areas of difficulty and the effect on function.

Paediatric Physiotherapist

The community paediatric physiotherapy service provides assessment and therapeutic management of physically and multiply disabled children in pre-school settings, special and mainstream schools, homes and in the hospital environment.

Children may be referred from birth to school leaving age, with neurological, respiratory or musculoskeletal conditions requiring physiotherapy input.

The physiotherapist works very closely with families, carers, education staff and other health professionals to ensure an effective, holistic approach which will promote the child's full potential.

Paediatrician

A specialist doctor in children's medicine and development.

Speech and Language Therapist

Provides advice to home and school regarding accessing the curriculum and developing functional communication skills. Provides programmes to develop speech and language, and support education staff in the development of high and low-tech augmentative methods of communication.

Assesses and provides advice on eating, drinking and swallowing.

School Nurse

A trained nurse with skills to promote health and well-being of youngsters in school. Some schools nurses are specially trained to carry out clinical procedures in schools such as feeding etc.

Educational Psychologist

Provides consultation, assessment and advice. Works via parents/carers and education staff to devise strategies to promote development and learning.

Connexions

From Year 9, a Connexions Service representative may become involved with your child's further education and career planning.

What support will my child get in pre-school / school?

Most children with a physical disability are able to attend their local pre-school group and mainstream school. Help is provided and / or adaptations made to enable children to join in with the activities of other children and to follow the normal curriculum.

Children under four years

Portage Home Visitors, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, and Speech and Language Therapists can make home visits to support and advise you on appropriate programmes to help your child's early development and make best use of whatever mobility your child may have. Your child may also be attending a pre-school group with other children of his/her age.

Children in pre-school

Teacher Advisers visit children during the year before they start school. Prior to this intervention, support is provided by health or other educational agencies. Teacher Advisors liaise with Health professionals and support the transition into school. Most children with a physical disability are able to attend their local pre-school with or without the need for additional support.

Children in school

The vast majority of children with physical disabilities are able to attend and access a local Primary and Secondary schools with or without the need for additional support. Pupils with support may receive additional support through the Specialist Teaching Advisory Service, Therapists and the School Nurse.

There is a small minority of pupils, particularly at secondary school age, with complex or additional difficulties, who are unable to access their local school. Consequently, these pupils may attend an alternative accessible secondary school, or a school with provision for pupils with physical disabilities, or a special school with facilities and staff skilled in educating children with physical disabilities.

Schools may seek advice from the Specialist Teacher Advisory (STA) Service. Following referral, Teacher Advisers may monitor each child's progress; advise staff working daily with them; and train support staff.

What does the Teacher Adviser do?

The Teacher Adviser works with children and staff in educational settings to support children's physical development and to enable them to access the physical environment and the full curriculum.

The Teacher Adviser for Physical Disability has a varied role dependent on the needs of the individual child, working in partnership with parents/carers, professionals and voluntary agencies to ensure pupils with physical disabilities are supported appropriately within their educational setting.

Support includes:

Advice

Sharing information and making recommendations to parents/carers and other professionals, and providing advice on the educational implications of a pupil's disability.

Assessment

Using observation and informal assessments to complement medical information.

Monitoring

Regular checking of progress, and attendance at meetings where appropriate.

Training

Developing awareness and understanding of physical disability for teachers and assistants.

Resources

Assessment, advice and training on specialist equipment including ICT equipment, alongside assessment of physical access to school buildings and liaison with other professionals.

Equipment

Providing advice on specialist equipment, in liaison with health professionals.

Contacts Teacher Advisers PD

Local Education Offices

North Hampshire

Fleet Local Office
Birch House
Barley Way
Fleet GU51 2YB
Tel: 01252 814777

South Hampshire

Havant Local Office
River Way
Havant PO9 2EL
Tel: 023 9244 1409

West Hampshire

Winchester Local Office
Clarendon House
Romsey Road
Winchester SO22 5PW
Tel: 01962 876345

Education

Parent Partnership Service
Hampshire County Council - Education
County Office
The Castle
Winchester SO23 8UG
Tel: 01962 845870

Portage Service
Aquitaine House
2-5 St Clement Street
Winchester SO23 9DR
Tel: 01962 813893

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service
Hampshire County Council - Education
County Office
The Castle
Winchester
SO23 8UG
Tel: 01962 846452

Schools with resourced provision for PD (Secondary)

Aldworth Science College
Western Way
Basingstoke
RG22 6HA
Tel: 01256 322691

Portchester Community School
White Hart Lane
Portchester
Fareham
PO16 9BD
Tel: 02392 364399

Kings' School
Romsey Road
Winchester
SO22 5PN
Tel: 01962 861161

Noadswood School
North Road
Dibden Purlieu
Southampton
SO45 4ZF
Tel: 02380 840025

Primary special school for pupils with physical disabilities

Saxon Wood School
Rooksdown
Barron Place
Basingstoke
RG24 9NH
Tel: 01256 356635

Social workers – Disabled Children’s Teams

Each area will have a team. The phone number can be found in telephone directories under Social Services.

Voluntary agencies

There are many voluntary agencies both Local and National which can be found through Contact a Family (CAF) www.cafamily.org.uk or
Tel: 0808 808 3555.

This leaflet is available in large print
– please contact the SEN Service
on 01962 846452

