



Bournemouth Parenting Practitioners Tip Sheet

Children with Disabilities

Being the parent of a disabled child can sometimes seem challenging, but remember that you're not alone in the situation. Around 15% of the UK population experience some form of disability, and there are a number of council, education and health authorities available to help:

- The **Disability Discrimination Act** protects disabled people by law. This act means that it is unlawful for services such as schools and businesses to treat anyone with a disability differently to others, and requires them to make their services accessible to disabled people.
- Your **GP and local health authority** are always there to help you. You can ask them for advice in assessing your child's disability. Following that, they will help with any ongoing treatment, therapy or equipment that your child may need.
- There is a number of **benefits** available to help you with the

cost of care, including the Disability Living Allowance and the Carers Allowance.

Remember that people with disabilities are also entitled to free prescriptions. Ask your local council to find out what is available to you.

- Your child may find it easier to attend a **special school**, with an environment that is specifically designed to cater for their educational needs. If they attend a mainstream school, they can receive extra support with the available **Special Needs provisions**. Your education authority will assess your child's disability to find the most suitable way.
- The council can provide support for you and your child by offering special leisure facilities and short breaks that are accessible to disabled people. There are many charities which are specifically aimed at providing extra help and support to people in your situation.





Warnings

Some children's disabilities are diagnosed early, but others may develop or suddenly appear. If you are worried that your child may have a disability, contact your GP.



What to do

Get as much information as you can. Ask around to find out what benefits and support is available to you.



What to say

Contact any of the organisations that offer advice and support to parents.



Prevention

Although your child's condition is not preventable, you can minimise their experience by making sure they get all the support available to them.

Useful Contacts

For more information, advice or support, contact:

- Disabled Children & Young Carers Team, telephone: 01202 458000
- Parent to Parent, telephone: 01202 650227
- Bournemouth Parenting Practitioners, telephone: 01202 453965

