

Early Support

available to parents and carers of babies and young children with additional needs or disabilities in Bromley

This booklet is also a guide for those working with children and young people, including the voluntary sector

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Foreword by Dr Tessa Moore

Assistant Director (Education)

I am delighted to introduce the revised 7th edition of the Birth to 5 years Resource Guide, which provides contact details of support and services available to support very young children with additional needs or disabilities, and their families, in Bromley. This guide is a valuable and highly regarded source of information, it is also a useful guide for professionals.

The Local Authority continues to work together with our multi-agency partners to ensure young children with additional needs or disabilities have access to advice, early intervention and where necessary multi-agency assessment, specialist support and provision with a particular focus on children with more complex needs, working in an integrated way and placing the team around the child and family.

There are 16 multi-agency services working with pre-school children with additional needs and disabilities which are based at the Phoenix Children's Resource Centre, working within and from the Centre. The Centre provides access to early intervention and specialist support delivered by the following teams:

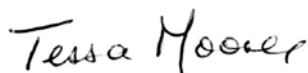
- Early Support and Complex Needs Team
- Bromley Portage
- Phoenix Pre-School Assessment
- Pre-School and Outreach and Inclusion Team

Support for pre-school aged children with sensory support needs is from the Griffins Centre at Darrick Wood.

Bromley is committed to supporting the needs of children with additional needs or disabilities ensuring that parents and carers feel supported as soon as their child has an identified need.

I trust that you will find this guide useful, if you wish to have an informal discussion about the services detailed in the booklet, please do contact the relevant professionals for the advice you require. For signposting to the services you require, please contact:

- Pelin Ahmet, Specialist Information Officer
t: 020 8776 3160
e: pelin.ahmet@bromley.gov.uk
- Kay Moore, Parent Participation Officer
t: 020 8776 3170
e: kay.moore@phoenixsch.org.uk



Dr Tessa Moore
Assistant Director (Education)

We hope that this directory is helpful and welcome comments, feedback and ideas for future editions.

Please contact:

- **Sue Card** (Deputy Keyworker Co-ordinator, Bromley Early Support & Complex Needs Team)

t: **020 8315 4748**

e: **espp.general@phoenixsch.org.uk**

f: **020 8466 8855**

based at:

**The Phoenix Children's Resource Centre
40 Masons Hill
Bromley
BR2 9JG**

Key to symbols used in this booklet:

t : Telephone number

e: Email address

f: Fax number

w: Web address

Disclaimer

All information and contact details were updated at the time of print May 2013. Government legislation at that time was reflected, however, it should be recognised that this may change during the period covered by this booklet. Please note that any products/organisations included in this edition are not recommended or endorsed by Education, Care and Health Services.

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QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO SUPPORT / BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES FROM BIRTH TO FIVE

The quick reference guide is designed to give parents and carers a 'snapshot' of the support/benefits available. Details of the support available to families of babies and young children with additional needs or disabilities from birth to five can be found in this booklet. Funding for these benefits was applicable as of April 2013.

From Birth

Disability Living Allowance

Care Component of Disability Living Allowance (page 37 of booklet).

From birth under special rules and from 3 months for all routine DLA applications.

Carers Allowance same conditions apply (page 35 of booklet).

Mobility Component of DLA (page 37 of booklet) from age 3 for the higher rate and age 5 for the lower rate.

Blue Badge Parking Scheme

Under special rules (page 33 of booklet)

Congestion Charge Exemption applies if blue badge awarded (page 33 of booklet) From birth if child has a condition that requires them to be accompanied by bulky medical equipment at all times, or to be near a vehicle to enable emergency access to treatment.

Child Benefit

(page 36 of booklet)

Child Tax Credits

(page 36 of booklet)

Working Tax Credits

(page 38 of booklet)

Disabled Child Carers Premium

(page 37 of booklet)

Disabled Facilities Grant

(page 34 of booklet)

From Age 2

Taxi Cards

(page 34 of booklet) age 2

From Age 3

Blue Badge (3 years)

(page 33 of booklet)

Mobility Component of DLA-Higher rate

(page 37 of booklet)

Free Early Education

All 3 & 4 year olds are entitled to free early years education, comprising of 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. Some eligible two year olds will also be eligible for funding from September 2013. (page 12 of booklet)

Support in Pre-Schools (SIPS)

For children with severe and complex needs, a flexible range of support (which may include a grant) can be given to Early Years settings, following a child's third birthday (page 12 of booklet)

Wheelchair Service/Major Buggies

At age 3 a child may be referred to the Wheelchair Service, if they have significant mobility needs, however a child can be referred under the age of 3 if they have a special seating requirement (page 34 of booklet)

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO SUPPORT / BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES FROM BIRTH TO FIVE

Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance

Higher rate (page 37 of booklet)

Road tax exemption, Dartford Toll exemption
(page 46 of booklet)

From Age 4

Continence Supplies

Entitlement to assessment for free nappies and
continence supplies (page 33 of booklet)

Available for private purchase extra large nappies
(page 52 of booklet).

From Age 5

Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance

Lower rate (page 37 of booklet)

1: Community Health Services for Children with Additional Needs or Disabilities (birth–5yrs) based at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre and elsewhere in Bromley

Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre

The Phoenix Centre offers a range of developmental, educational, therapy and medical services for children who have, or who are likely to have additional needs or disabilities. Multi-agency services are located at the Phoenix and work with children and families across the Borough. Professionals involved include Community Consultant Paediatricians, Physiotherapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Clinical Psychologists. They offer assessment advice and support services for children with developmental delay, speech/language delay/disorder, motor co-ordination difficulties, autistic spectrum disorder, ADHD and emotional or behavioural difficulties.

The Child Health Community Paediatric Team includes, Consultant Paediatricians, Doctors and Trainee Doctors. They work closely with the Therapy, Nursing and Education services to provide assessment and specialist advice on the care of children, where there are neuro developmental concerns.

- The Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre
40 Masons Hill
Bromley
BR2 9JG
t: 020 8466 9988
f: 020 8466 8855

Community Health Services

Community Paediatric Dietitians

This service provides advice to parents and carers of children with disabilities who have feeding problems, poor weight gain or are fed via nasogastric/gastrostomy tubes. Parents should contact their GP, Health Visitor, Community Nurse or other health professional to request a referral.

- Community Paediatric Dietitians
55 Chislehurst Road
Orpington
BR6 0DF
t: Direct Line 01689 888000

Emergency GP Service (EMdoc)

The GP out of hours service provides telephone triage by a GP, face to face consultations at the EMdoc clinic and home visits where appropriate. Service available from 6.30pm to 08.00am Monday to Thursday, and from 6.30pm Friday through to 08.00am Monday. It is also open on bank holidays including Christmas Day. It is a service for individuals whose condition worsens and who cannot wait for care until their GP surgery re-opens.

Self referral by anyone registered with a Bromley GP, anyone visiting the borough and needing immediate treatment or anyone referred from A&E at the:

- Princess Royal University Hospital
Farnborough Common
Orpington
Kent BR6 8ND
t: 020 8676 3263

Integrated Children’s Community Nursing Team (ICCNT)

An individualised service enabling children with special nursing needs to be cared for in their own home, school or other environment, outside hospital. The service includes provision of appropriate specialist nursing equipment in the home for very sick and disabled children.

- Integrated Children’s Community Nursing Team at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre
t: 020 8466 9988

1: Community Health Services for Children with Additional Needs or Disabilities (birth–5yrs) based at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre and elsewhere in Bromley

Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapists see children with physical difficulties to assess and advise them and their carers on developing functional skills necessary for self care and play. OT’s may also recommend/provide equipment to assist in the child’s development and participation of daily living activities.

Referrals for OT should be made by a Health or Education Professional involved with the child and sent to:

- Occupational Therapy at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre
t: 020 8466 9988

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapists can enable your child to reach their full physical potential through working with you and your child, using home programmes and various treatment facilities. For further information, please contact:

- The Physiotherapy Team at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre
t: 020 8466 9988

Sleep Clinics

Offer one to one support and guidance with regular follow ups usually in a clinic based setting to parents if their child’s sleep problem is causing them concern, i.e. settling, night waking, night terrors etc. For more information please contact your Health Visitor.

Special Care Dental Service

The Special Care Dental Service complements your local NHS General Dental Service to provide a comprehensive service for children on referral. The service also cares for those children with special care needs who require

an emergency visit and do not have a General Dental Practitioner.

Children referred have a variety of special care needs and will benefit from our staff with special skills and experience. They may be:

- Pre-school children with a lot of decay who are not yet manageable in general practice
- Older children who need their care under sedation or General Anaesthetic
- Children with physical, learning, mental health difficulties, or those with complex medical histories
- Children of asylum seekers and/or where communication in English is difficult
- Children in young offenders institutions

To obtain care for children needing to access a NHS dentist contact:

- PALS
t: 0800 3895118

For referrals for children meeting the criteria above, please write to:

- Head of Dental Services
Global House
Station Approach
Hayes, Kent
BR2 7EH
t: 020 8315 8707

1: Community Health Services for Children with Additional Needs or Disabilities (birth–5yrs) based at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre and elsewhere in Bromley

Speech & Language Therapy

This is a service that offers assessment of childrens’ communication skills and/or swallowing difficulties. Support and advice regarding the type of therapy management that will be most effective to help the child progress will be provided. Referrals to the Speech and Language Therapy Service can be made by parents or any professional with parental consent. To make a referral or for further information please contact Speech and Language Therapy at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre.

- Speech & Language Therapy at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre
t: 020 8466 9988

Integrated Services

Some services offered are integrated services commissioned across Education and Health;

Newborn Neo Natal Hearing Screening

Newborn Hearing Screening is part of a national screening programme designed to identify those children that may have been born with a hearing loss. Here in Bromley the hearing screen is carried out by the Health Visitor at the new birth visit around 10 days of age. Early identification of a child that may have a hearing loss is obviously important for their future development, our aim is to have completed the screening cycle by the age of 5 weeks. Parents are able to contact the newborn hearing screening department at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre.

- t: 020 8315 4686
w: www.hearingscreening.nhs.uk

The Complex Communication Diagnostic Service

This is a multi-disciplinary team that offers assessment for children with suspected Autistic Spectrum Disorder and its co-existing conditions. The team consists of Community Paediatricians, Specialist Speech and Language Therapists, Clinical Psychologists and an Educational Psychologist. It works in partnership with families, Education and the Voluntary Sector so that the diagnostic assessment can go hand in hand with appropriate Pre-School Specialist Early Support, (e.g. SPEACS, see page 11 of booklet and Bromley Earlybird, see page 12 of booklet) and other services. Referrals are made by professionals to:

- Community Paediatricians at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre
t: 020 8466 9988
f: 020 8466 8855

Communication, Assessment Training Technology Service [CATTS]

Involvement from CATTS is requested when professionals working with a child require additional knowledge and skills to enable them to meet the communication and/or recording needs of the child and these skills cannot be easily met elsewhere. This may include:

- No/limited knowledge about the hardware or software necessary to support the child (e.g. iPads and appropriate apps, Communicate In Print for producing symbol resources, communication devices, laptops and supportive software for recording work at school).
- Limited knowledge of differentiating learning experiences for the child.

1: Community Health Services for Children with Additional Needs or Disabilities (birth–5yrs) based at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre and elsewhere in Bromley

Referral to the service can be made to the Specialist Support and Disability Panel by professionals working with the child. For a referral form contact:

- t: Ian Shaw (Data & Panels Manager)
020 8315 4718
- e: panel@phoenixsch.org.uk

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Bromley CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service)

This is a multi-agency initiative. A new service was created in April 2010 when the CAMHS Tier 2 service, based at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre, joined Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust. This change will in due course create an integrated CAMHS service across both bases at 2 Newman Road and the Phoenix Centre. This process has been commenced with a single point of access for all referrals, which should be directed to CAMHS Tier 2 at the Phoenix Centre.

CAMHS provides an assessment and treatment service for children and young people with mental health and behaviour management problems and can provide help to parents, children and young people about a range of issues including behaviour, self-confidence, parenting, family worries, relationships, anxiety, depression, bereavement, fears and phobias. A service is also offered to children and young people where there are concerns about health, development or learning disability.

The Tier 2 service is based at the Phoenix Centre, but home or school visits can be arranged as appropriate. Following assessment, advice may be given to staff in schools or to other professionals, as well as to parents. There are also links with the Short Breaks Service, including Hollybank, and with the Complex Communication Diagnostic Service and Burgess Autistic Trust.

The Tier 3 service is based at Newman Road, where interventions are offered by specialist child and adolescent teams who deal with more complex/longstanding difficulties or cases involving a number of different agencies. For further information, please contact the Administrators:

- CAMHS Tier 2:
t: 020 8315 4760/4761
- CAMHS Tier 3:
t: 020 8315 4430
w: www.camhscares.nhs.uk

National advice/information on health related matters contact:

NHS Direct

For immediate and confidential health advice and information, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- t: 0845 46 47
- w: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

NHS Carers Direct

Helpline and website developed with carers in mind, featuring free, confidential information and advice for carers, case studies.

- t: 0808 802 0202
- w: www.nhs.uk/carersdirect

2: Specialist Support and Disability Services for Children with Additional Needs or Disabilities (birth–5yrs) based at The Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre and elsewhere

Specialist Support and Disability Services work with our multi-agency partners to ensure quality timely co-ordinated access to specialist support provision and early intervention for children and young people and their parents/carers. High quality family friendly services, information and support are offered, with a particular focus on children and young people with more complex disabilities.

The Service encompasses four areas with teams working across three sites, they are:-

- Pre-School Specialist Support and Disability Services (birth to five)
- Bromley Early Support and Complex Needs Team (birth to nineteen) including Bromley early Support Full Programme for children and families, where the child has complex needs.
- Disabled Children’s Social Work and Short Breaks Team
- Joint Commissioning

The Pre-School Specialist Support & Disability Service (PSS&DS) provides early identification and intervention, assessment and transition support for children with significant special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND). The service promotes inclusion and works directly with children, families and Early Years practitioners, in liaison with other professionals from health, social care and the voluntary sector.

The service offers access to a wide range of co-ordinated, multi-agency support to children from birth to 4+ years and their parents/carers and mainstream Early Years settings, as soon as a child is identified as needing additional support. The PSS&DS integrates the work of four teams:-

- **Portage and Assessment** – Portage is a high quality home visiting education and assessment service for families of pre-school children with SEND aged between approximately 9 months and 3 years. It offers regular weekly or fortnightly visits, when the family and Portage Home Visitor work in partnership to assess what the child can already do. They then plan specific learning goals to meet the child’s individual needs in liaison with other involved professionals, e.g. health therapists and sensory support.

For children who have social communication needs, specialist staff will support the child and family and where appropriate they will support and contribute to the health assessment process of the child’s social communication and interaction skills (Speech and Language Therapy and Portage – Early Action for Children’s Communication (SPEACs) service).

- t: 020 8315 4752
- e: portage.general@phoenixsch.org.uk

- **Phoenix Pre-School Assessment Classrooms** – The Phoenix Pre-School assessment classrooms (PPS) provide part-time placements for children with a wide range of severe or complex needs. All classes offer a warm and caring environment with high quality, intensive and rigorous assessment and intervention.

Each class has a qualified teacher with teaching assistants and specialist health support assistants. Speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nursing staff and sensory support teachers support children and families as required.

Whilst attending the Phoenix Pre-School, children are able to use the many facilities

2: Specialist Support and Disability Services for Children with Additional Needs or Disabilities (birth–5yrs) based at The Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre and elsewhere

within the Phoenix Centre. These include the soft play area, a sensory room, hydrotherapy pool, the gym, specially equipped playground and a sensory garden.

- t: 020 8315 4754
- e: phoenixpreschool@phoenixsch.org.uk

- **Outreach & Inclusion** – The Outreach, Inclusion and Supporting Inclusion in Pre-Schools Team provides quality support to enable children with special educational needs and disabilities to be included in mainstream pre-school settings. This includes support and advice about other services, assessment of individual needs and transition to school support.

Specialist teachers (Area SENCO’s) carry out observations and assessments in liaison with the mainstream settings and will work with health, social care and parents to set appropriate learning targets.

A flexible range of support (which may include a grant) can be given to Early Years settings (for children eligible for Free Early Education) to provide additional support for children with severe and complex needs to fully access the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum in mainstream pre-school (Supporting Inclusion in Pre-Schools (SIP’s)).

- t: 020 8 315 4739
- e: susan.gainsford@bromley.gov.uk

- **For children and families with the most severe and/or complex needs** a period of multi-agency intensive keyworking may be offered, particularly when children are first identified with needs and at times of transition.

Access to support from any PSS&DS team is through referral to the Early Support Pre-School Panel (ESPSP). The ESPSP meets fortnightly during term time at the Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre, to co-ordinate provision and support in Bromley for children from birth to 4+ years with significant special educational needs and disabilities. Referrals are accepted from professionals or parents/carers. Referrals are followed up with initial visits to the family to discuss support options available.

- Ian Shaw (*Data and Panels Manager*)
t: 020 8315 4718
e: panel@phoenixsch.org.uk

Transition and Statutory Assessment – all children who are referred through the Early Support Pre-School Panel are assigned an education keyworker who co-ordinates the child’s educational support. They are also responsible for liaising with other relevant professionals involved with the child and family and for ensuring that discussions take place with parents and carers around assessment and transition into school.

Training – The Pre-School Specialist Support and Disability Service offers a range of training and support groups for parents and other professionals. These include parent/child groups for children with a range of needs including social communication, speech and language and communication, severe learning difficulties and global developmental delay. When children have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) the Early Bird Programme may support parents. Parent led support groups also run at the Phoenix Centre, e.g., Down Syndrome parent group.

Please note, the referral, support and assessment pathway for pre-school children is currently

2: Specialist Support and Disability Services for Children with Additional Needs or Disabilities (birth–5yrs) based at The Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre and elsewhere

under review, so the information above may be subject to change.

- Annabel Dixon
Lead, Pre-School Specialist Support and Disability Service

Bromley Early Support and Complex Needs Team

Bromley Early Support and Complex Needs Team provides 'Team around the Child and Family' support. Following referral to the Early Support Pre-School Panel, Multi-Agency Meetings, a Keyworker and Joint Assessment can be provided to very young children from birth to five with more severe and complex needs and disabilities and their parents/carers.

Some children with their family are offered a 'Next Steps' approach to multi-agency planning with a family. This brings together all therapists and education staff working with a child to plan joint activities to promote learning and development.

The team also works with school age children and young people with complex needs, through to nineteen, where time limited Keyworker support may be offered where a situation is complex and requires stabilising.

Referrals

Referrals to Bromley Early Support and Complex Needs Team can be made by parents or any professionals working with the child, through the Early Support Pre-School Panel (birth to 5) or by professionals to the Specialist Support and Disability Panel (School aged children).

For further advice and a referral form, please contact the team as detailed below on:

- t: 020 8315 4748
e: espp.general@phoenixsch.org.uk
f: 020 8466 8855
- Sally Harrison (*Keyworker Co-ordinator and Senior Advisory Teacher*)
- Sue Card (*Deputy Keyworker Co-ordinator*)

Disabled Children’s Social Work and Short Break Services

(Hawes Down Centre based)

For information on the support offered by this service (Page 16 of booklet)

Specialist Support and Disability Panel

This multi-agency panel receives referrals from professionals and schools for school aged children and young people whose circumstances and complex needs require a multi-agency approach. There is a strong focus on stabilising vulnerable placements by ensuring appropriate support is in place; and securing alternative specialist placements within Bromley best suited to children and young people’s specialist needs and disabilities.

- Ian Shaw (*Data & Panels Manager*)
t: 020 8315 4718
e: panel@phoenixsch.org.uk

2: Specialist Support and Disability Services for Children with Additional Needs or Disabilities (birth–5yrs) based at The Phoenix Children’s Resource Centre and elsewhere

Educational Psychology Service

(Civic Centre based)

Part of an Educational Psychologist’s role involves working with young children individually, observing them both at home and in pre-school settings as well as carefully listening to families and other professionals concerns about the child’s needs. Recommendations and advice are suggested in order to encourage the child’s development, learning and prepare the child for school.

For an informal discussion about the support available, please contact

- Educational Psychology Service
t: 020 8313 4168
e: eps.admin@bromley.gov.uk

Sensory Support Service (Griffins)

The service offers advice and support at home and in pre-school settings to families who have a child with a visual or hearing impairment. The service runs baby sign and baby play sessions at Griffins which parents/carers can bring their pre-school children to as well as the use of the sensory room for the development of vision.

- Griffins
Lovibonds Avenue
Orpington
Kent
BR6 8ER
- Sally Thomas (*Vision Team Leader*)
t: 01689 889856
e: sally.thomas@bromley.gov.uk
- Gina Rosado (*Hearing Team Leader*)
t: 01689 889850
e: gina.rosado@bromley.gov.uk

Other Services Available

Petts Wood Playgroup for Children with Special Needs

Petts Wood Playgroup is an independent Registered Charity providing pre-school care and education for children with a wide range of special needs from birth to five years of age. The group is based in Petts Wood and serves the whole Borough. It has access to Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, the Sensory Support Service and Educational Psychology through the Early Support Pre-School Panel. Escorted transport is available. Anyone can make a referral to the Playgroup and the Playgroup notifies the Early Support Pre-School Panel.

- Larry Simpson (*Playgroup Leader*)
t: 01689 872053
f: 01689 872053

Linking Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Bromley Early Support

A CAF Assessment is not normally required if another Multi-Agency Bromley Specialist referral has or will be made, (e.g. Pre-School Specialist Support & Disability Services and Sensory Support) as the support threshold is significantly above the CAF threshold. A CAF may be indicated if a professional has concerns with regard to siblings, or a referral to Children’s Social Care is required. For more information contact:

- CAF Advice and Support Team
Bromley Central Library
t: 020 8461 7174

3: Local and National Advocacy and Advice

ACE (Advisory Centre for Education)

ACE provides an advice service and helpful information regarding extra help for your child at school (including pre-schools) or getting a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN). The website has a section on Special Educational Needs giving detailed and helpful advice on communication with the school and the specific processes involved.

- t: Helpline 0808 8005793
w: www.ace-ed.org.uk

IPSEA (Independent Panel for Special Education Advice)

Free, professional, expert advice and support to parents of children with special educational needs. Offering representation (when appropriate) to Special Educational Needs Tribunal for parents using their services.

- t: Helpline 0800 0184016
w: www.ipsea.org.uk

Contact A Family

The SEN National Advice Service is a countrywide advice service for special educational needs (SEN). The service will help families whose child may have special educational needs. The service will be able to provide advice and information on any aspect of their child's education.

- t: Helpline 0808 8083555
w: www.cafamily.org.uk

Network 81

A national network of parents working towards properly resourced inclusive education for children with special needs. Offers advice and support to parents with any questions.

- 1-7 Woodfield Terrace
Stansted
Essex CM24 8AJ
t: Helpline 0845 077 4055
(Mon-Fri 10am-1pm)
e: info@network81.org
w: www.network81.org

Parent Partnership & Choice Service

The Parent Partnership & Choice Service offers impartial information, advice and support for parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) aged between 2 and 19 years old and impartial information and advice for all parents on making the transition from primary to secondary school.

The Service offers helpline and one to one support and can discuss any worries that parents/carers have regarding their child's SEN or transition to secondary school. Support offered includes supporting at meetings, help with understanding processes and reports and discussing concerns. The Service can provide an Independent Parental Supporter (trained volunteer) to accompany and support parents at meetings with schools and the Local Authority.

Information leaflets on specific SEN issues are available to download from the Parent Partnership website.

The Parent Partnership & Choice Service is managed by the Bromley Children Project.

- Bromley Parent Partnership & Choice Service
Blenheim Children & Family Centre
Blenheim Road
Orpington BR6 9BH
t: 01689 881024/023
(Mon-Fri 9.00am-3.30pm)
e: parentpartnership@bromley.gov.uk
w: www.bromley.gov.uk/info/8/special_educational_needs/64/parent_partnership

4: Family Support

Organisations Providing Support

The organisations providing support for families and children fall broadly into four categories, those provided by:

- the local Council, Education Care & Health Services
- the local Health Trust
- Voluntary Agencies
- Integrated services across categories

There are also national organisations providing independent advice and advocacy.

Bromley Education, Care & Health Services

Disabled Children's Social Work and Short Break Services (Specialist Support and Disability Service)

The Disabled Children's Social Work and Short Break Team consists of a Service Manager, Practice Managers, Social Workers, Social Work Assistants, Administrators and a Specialist Information Officer. The team provides advice and support to families with children age birth to 18 years old with permanent and substantial disabilities of a severe and profound nature. This includes children and young people with severe learning disabilities, severe physical disabilities, severe and profound autistic spectrum disorders, disability arising out of serious or chronic illness and severe visual and/or hearing impairment.

The team works under relevant children and disability legislation including section 17 of the Children Act 1989 whereby a disabled child is considered a 'child in need'. A family is entitled to an assessment of their needs by the local authority under the national Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (DH 2000), if they feel a holistic assessment is necessary. This assessment is carried out in partnership with relevant

professionals across health, education and social care with a team around the child approach that aims to keep the child and their family at the centre of the process. Alternatively, some families may wish to have their needs identified by a professional who knows them and a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is more appropriate to identify how needs can be met locally.

The team works closely with the Referral and Assessment Service in Social Care to ensure that disabled children in need of safeguarding and protection are planned for appropriately. The team also has responsibility for placing, monitoring and reviewing the needs of disabled children who are 'looked after' by the local authority in foster care or residential settings.

Short breaks are an integral part of the team's work with families. Short breaks enable the child to have an enjoyable social experience and provide a valuable break for the parent/carer. Consultation with disabled children and young people and their parents/carers ensures that current and the development of future services meets the needs of service users.

Support Options

- Advice and information on the support available through local voluntary organisations, leisure and social opportunities
- Specialist Short Breaks – including day and overnight services, provided in line with assessed needs.
- Disabled Children's Social Work and Short Break Team
- t: 020 8776 3160
(Mon-Fri 8.45am-5.00pm)

4: Family Support

Leisure, Play and Support Services

There are specific holiday play schemes for children with disabilities as well as play and social activities organised throughout the year. New services are developed in consultation with parents and parents are supported in their choice of scheme.

- t: 020 8464 0276
e: bromleyfamilies@bromley.gov.uk
w: www.bromleyfamilies.info

Voluntary Agencies

There are a wide variety of voluntary organisations offering services and support to children with disabilities and their families. The main groups are listed below. All of them will be able to give you information about other support agencies. If your child does not have a diagnosis Contact a Family is a very good source of advice. Early Support also produces an excellent booklet, 'Living without a diagnosis'.

Bromley Deaf Children's Society

Provides information, advice and support and organises a monthly drop in Saturday club for deaf/hearing impaired children and their families.

- e: BDCS@hotmail.co.uk

Bromley Mencap (incorporating Bromley Scope)

Bromley Mencap and Bromley Scope have joined together to become one organisation. As a result Bromley Mencap runs Bromley Scope's services for children and adults with physical disabilities and their families. Bromley Mencap continues to run more specific services for children and adults with learning disabilities. The current range of services, within the newly merged organisation includes an information

helpline, welfare benefits form filling service, Family Support Workers, out of school activities and childminding networks. The childminding network can be used for as little as 2 hours a week, if you work or need a short break.

- Gill Eldridge
Rutland House
44 Masons Hill
Bromley
BR2 9JG
t: 020 8466 0790
e: gill.eldridge@bromleymencap.org
w: www.bromleymencap.org

Bromley Parent Voice

Bromley Parent Voice is a forum that aims to be a voice to inform service providers of the needs of children and young people with a disability or additional need and their families.

The forum was established in 2009 as a result of the implementation of the government agenda 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' (AHDC). Local authorities were required to consult with parents as part of the planning and delivery of services for children and young people with a disability or additional need.

The forum facilitates two-way communication between parent/carers and service providers in the London Borough of Bromley. The Forum works to provide feedback on services, identify unmet needs and shape decision making and planning for future service provision.

Parent Voice believes that by working co-operatively with local service providers parents can contribute to improvements in the services delivered for children and young people with a disability or additional need.

Bromley Parent Voice's membership is made up of residents of the London Borough of Bromley who are parents/carers of a child or young person with a disability or additional need, aged birth to 25. The Forum's primary focus will be

4: Family Support

on Education, Care and Health Services birth to 18 years. However, when young people move to adult services the Forum will retain an interest and support families and young people during the transition process.

- Kay Moore (*Parent Participation Officer*)
t: 020 8776 3170
e: info@bromleyparentvoice.org.uk
w: www.bromleyparentvoice.org.uk

Bromley Welcare

Bromley Welcare is a social work and family support organisation specialising in work with families in need, affected by family problems, isolation and poverty.

- Bromley Welcare
2 North Street
Bromley
BR1 1SB
t: 020 8466 0399
w: www.bromleywelcare.org.uk

Burgess Autistic Trust (BAT)

BAT Family Service provides support and information for families whose child, up to age 18, has a diagnosis on the autistic spectrum. This service includes parent training and workshops on a range of ASD related issues and personal meetings to discuss specific issues. Family Service also has a library where parents can access a very wide range of resources.

- 129 Southlands Road
Bromley
BR2 9QT
t: 020 8464 2897
e: info@burgessautistictrust.org.uk
w: www.burgessautistictrust.org.uk

Carers Bromley

Supports carers of all ages. Produces a directory of services and offers information, advice, support groups and a young carers service. Special support for young carers (4-18 yrs) including information, advocacy, practical support (short breaks) and activities.

- Caritas House
Tregony Road
Orpington
BR6 9XA
t: Helpline 0800 015 7700
e: help@carersbromley.org.uk
w: www.carersbromley.org.uk

Contact a Family

A national charity who provide information on specific conditions and rare disorders. Gives advice and support to local parents' groups and provides a linking service for families, either one-to-one or to relevant groups. Guides and booklets can be ordered or downloaded, including "About Diagnosis" to support parents around the process of diagnosis.

- t: Helpline 0808 808 3555
e: helpline@cafamily.org.uk
w: www.cafamily.org.uk

Deaf Access

Provides information, advice and support for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and their families. Their services include the following:

- General information and advice about deafness including information and contacts of other deaf related organisations
- Support groups including Tinnitus and Hard of Hearing Group and Signed Talks (Positive Deaf Lifestyles Group)
- Advocacy Service for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people

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- Equipment Demonstrations and Advice
- Harmony Family Project promoting communication between Hearing Parents and Deaf Children (coffee mornings and sign language practice sessions)
- Training and Courses: Deaf Awareness, Lip Reading and British Sign Language
- Supply of hearing aid batteries for NHS hearing aids (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm)
- Hearing aid maintenance clinic (3rd Monday every month) to all hearing aid users for their NHS hearing aid aftercare including retubing, cleaning and battery supply
- Community House
South Street
Bromley
BR1 1RH
t: 020 8315 2550
Minicom 020 8315 2552
SMS 07732 449349
e: information@deaf-access.co.uk
w: www.deaf-access.co.uk

Down's Group Bromley

On the last Friday of each month during term-time 1 – 2.30pm the Bromley Down's Group meet in the Portage Room at the Phoenix Children's Resource Centre. Parents can drop in with their child for a cup of tea and enjoy meeting other parents on a social basis. Toys are available for the children to play with, siblings welcome.

- Liz Fiorini
t: 01689 608631

Face2Face

Parents supporting parents of Disabled Children.

A network of trained volunteer befrienders supported by Scope. Parents, who themselves have a child with additional support needs, offer

support and information to new parents.

- t: Helpline 0808 800 3333
w: www.scope.org.uk

Kent Association for the Blind (KAB)

Working in partnership with the local council, KAB provides information and advice on all matters concerning sight loss or low vision.

- Gail Low
Kent Association for the Blind
Bromley Sight Centre
18 Blyth Road
Bromley
BR1 3RX
t: 020 8464 8406
e: rehab.bromley@kab.org.uk
w: www.kab.org.uk

Scope

Scope is a national disability organisation with a focus on Cerebral Palsy. It provides a wide range of services to disabled children, adults, their families and carers.

Scope Response is a free and confidential information, advice and support service for all disabled people and their families in England and Wales.

The Scope Response Regional teams work with people with Cerebral Palsy and families who may need a higher level of advice and support, to identify their needs and to help ensure that those needs are met. They will also have information and knowledge of local services.

What is the procedure for referrals?

By phone, email, fax, letter, text or any other form of communication directly to Scope Response.

What languages (other than English) are available?

Scope information is available in different languages and formats and we have access to language line.

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- t: Helpline 0808 800 3333
e: response@scope.org.uk
text: Scope followed by your message to 80039
w: www.scope.org.uk

Sleep Solutions

A service supported by Scope which provides support to families of children and young people with additional support needs and severe sleep problems.

- t: 0844 800 9189 (local rate call)
e: sleepsolutions@scope.org.uk

Key Mainstream Services

There are many organisations which offer support to children and families, including those with special needs and disabilities. The following agencies work in specific parts of the Borough. There are others, but it is not possible to list them all.

- w: www.bromley.gov.uk

Bromley Children and Family Centres

Each centre is different and offers services specific to the needs of the local community. Health, Social Care, Education and Voluntary Support Agencies are working together to ensure the integrated services for children and young people are delivered at the centres.

Each centre will vary, but each will be able to advise or signpost to services for all families.

The types of services that you can expect from a Children and Family Centre relate to early education and childcare; family support and parental outreach; child and family health services and links with schools and local early years settings.

For further information on Children and Family Centres please contact:

- The Bromley Children Project
t: 020 8461 7259

Bromley Children Project

The Bromley Children Project is a team working with parents and carers of children aged 0 – 12, and older in exceptional circumstances, who are struggling and or at risk of being referred into statutory services. They work in a holistic way, to help improve their families' lives and their children's life chances, and work toward independence, e.g. increasing their knowledge and skills in relation to their role as parent and provider for their families through appropriate, training, development, and employment.

The Team provides high quality family support services and delivers a range of approved evidence-based parenting courses across the borough. It is made up of specialists in Family Support and Parenting, Disability and Special Needs, and Transition to secondary school which includes support for families going through the secondary school application process (CHOICE) and the Parent Partnership Service. (See page 15 of the booklet).

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The Project has staff based in Children and Family Centres that link with local primary schools, Children and Family Centres and Early Years providers across the whole of Bromley.

The Project works in partnership with the family, providing needs-led support and challenge to help parents and carers to effect positive change in their lives and improve outcomes for their children; individual help and/or small group work, parenting courses, classes/training, groups and other activities, usually in Children and Family Centres and occasionally in schools. Services for parents and carers are supported by crèches, enabling parents of pre-school aged children to attend.

For more information call:

- Bromley Children Project Manager
t: 020 8461 7261

Demelza

To provide respite care, symptom control, end-of-life care and bereavement support to children and families, where a child has a life limiting or life threatening condition. A referral form is required to access this service.

- t: 01795 845200 (Kent)
e: info@demelza.org.uk
w: www.demelza.org.uk

G.F.S. Platform Penge

An organisation that runs a "fun and friendly" place for young mums in Bromley, aged 16 - 25 to meet. They also offer advice, information and courses covering many issues. An interactive parent and child play session takes place on Wednesdays. G.F.S. also run an outreach support worker service for young mums in temporary accommodation and for mums from ethnic minority groups. For more information:

- t: 020 8676 9569
e: penge@gfsplatform.co.uk
w: www.gfsplatform.org.uk

Local and National Helplines, Organisations and Groups for Advice and Support

At times parents and carers can benefit from speaking to independent advisers or counsellors who are not directly involved in providing care or services to their family.

Beckenham and Bromley Twins Club

Affiliated to TAMBA (Twins and Multiple Births Association) a nationwide charity. Self help groups for parents, children and prospective parents of multiple births.

- Beckenham & Bromley Twins Club
Methodist Church Hall
Bevington Road
Beckenham BR1
- Nicola Wilson (*Chairperson*)
- Louise Latchem (*Membership Secretary*)
e: bbtwinsclub@gmail.com
w: www.beckenhamandbromleytwinsclub.co.uk

Breathe on UK

Supports families of children on long term ventilation. Information and advice on medical questions, grants, special equipment, travel costs, community support, siblings, respite etc.

- The Medical Centre
Church Hill
Marnhull
Dorset
DT10 1PU
t: 01258 820274
w: www.breatheon.org.uk

4: Family Support

Bromley Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop

No appointment necessary. Free and confidential advice available from specialist staff.

- Community House,
South Street
Bromley BR1 1RH
Thursdays 1.30-4pm

Bromley Women's Aid

- t: Helpline 020 8466 1000
(Mon-Fri, 9.30am-3.30pm)
Office 020 8313 9303
w: www.bwaid.com

Bromley Victim Support

- t: Office 020 8776 7071
Textline 07963 479602
w: www.victimsupport.org.uk

Bromley Police Community Safety Unit

- t: 020 8282 8760
w: www.met.police.uk/csu/domestic_violence.htm

Bromley Keys to Freedom Programme

12 week courses for women who have experienced domestic abuse. Completely free and a crèche can be provided.

- t: 020 8313 4290
e: community.safety@bromley.gov.uk

Bromley TRYangle Programme

A programme for male perpetrators of domestic abuse wanting to change their behaviour. The programme provides both group and one-to-one support for the men, and group and one-to-one support for their ex/partners.

- t: 020 8855 7564
e: lyla@tryangle2011.org.uk

Bromley Learning Disabilities Forum

The Forum helps voluntary organisations and individuals to work together to develop and promote policies and strategies to meet the needs of children and adults with learning disabilities and their carers. One of their key objectives is to ensure users and carers know what services are available and to give them the opportunity to listen to, question and influence policy makers. For more information contact:

- Caroline Stone c/o Bromley Mencap
Rutland House
44 Masons Hill
Bromley
Kent BR2 7JG
t: 020 8466 0790
e: caroline-stone@bromlemencap.org

Bromley Y

Although this service offers counselling, consultation for parents and young people aged between 11 and 23, they are also happy to support a young person with a disabled sibling of any age. The service is also open to disabled young people.

- 17 Ethelbert Road
Bromley
Kent BR1 1JA
t: 020 8464 9033
e: info@bromley-y.org
w: www.bromley-y.org.uk

4: Family Support

Camden CAB Debt Advice

Face to Face Disability and Debt Advice London.

This is a specialist project and only available to people who:

- Live in Greater London (any London Borough).
- Are blind, deaf, have learning disabilities or are caring for a disabled child.
- And have debt/financial problems.

The Financial Inclusion Fund Disability Project can offer Debt Advice to anyone living in Greater London who is blind, deaf, caring for a disabled child or who has learning disabilities.

Families with a disabled child face extra difficulties in making ends meet and in getting advice when they find themselves in debt.

- e: fif@camdencabservice.org.uk
t: 020 7430 5091
t: 0300 330 0644
Text: 07948 447 926
f: 020 7404 1507

Cerebra

A registered charity that provides parents of children with special needs and disabilities with support, information, such as a booklet that guides you through completing a D.L.A. application and a toy and book library. For more information:

- t: FREEPHONE 0800 3281159
e: info@cerebra.org.uk
w: www.cerebra.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureaux

- Orpington CAB
t: 01689 827732
- Bromley Town CAB
t: 020 8315 1940
- Beckenham & Penge CAB
t: 020 8778 3231
w: www.bromleycab.org.uk

Council for Disabled Children

Works to share knowledge, expertise and raise awareness of the rights and needs of disabled children and their families. The Council supports local and national government and a wide range of professionals, in providing the highest standard of services. They produce a range of information and free seminars for parents of children with disabilities.

- National Children's Bureau
8 Wakley Street
London
EC1V 7QE
t: 020 7843 1900
e: cdc@ncb.org.uk
w: www.ncb.org.uk/cdc

Cystic Fibrosis Trust

Information, advice and support for people with cystic fibrosis, their families, friends and professionals.

- 11 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 1BY
t: 0300 373 1000 Trust helpline
e: enquiries@cftrust.org.uk
for general enquiries
for medical enquiries
w: www.cftrust.org.uk

4: Family Support

Down's Heart Group

Offers support and information to families who have a family member with Down's Syndrome and congenital heart defects.

- t: 0844 288 4800
e: info@dhg.org.uk
w: www.dhg.org.uk

Down's Syndrome Association

National charity offering advice, help and support. They produce information on all aspects of the condition and have a Resource Centre stocked with books, information and videos.

- t: Helpline 0333 1212 300
(open Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm)
e: info@downs-syndrome.org.uk
w: www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

Family Fund Trust

The Trust's purpose is to ease the stress on families in the UK who care for the severely disabled children under 16, by providing grants and information related to the care of the child. They can help with modest transport costs and driving lessons for the child's main carer, for families who meet their general criteria.

- The Family Fund Trust
4 Alpha Court
Marks Cross Drive
York
YO32 9WN
t: Helpline 0844 9744 099
e: info@familyfundtrust.org.uk
w: www.familyfund.org.uk

Family Lives

A free 24-hour helpline, offering a confidential listening service to support anyone caring for children.

- t: Helpline 0808 800 2222
w: www.familylives.org.uk

Gingerbread

Organisation for lone parent families.

Can advise on benefits, childcare, CSA, access rights, divorce, employment, housing, maternity rights and lone parenthood.

- 255 Kentish Town Road
London
NW5 2LX
t: 0808 802 0925
w: www.gingerbread.org.uk

Learning Disability Helpline

A free and confidential service for anyone who would like information or advice on anything to do with a learning disability, everything from money and benefits to the services and support groups that are available.

- t: Helpline 0808 808 1111
e: help@mencap.org.uk

SHINE (For families of children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus)

Offers support, organises events, provides advice and information.

- 209 Crescent Road
New Barnet
EN4 8SB
t: 01733 555988
e: contact@shinecharity.org.uk
w: www.shinecharity.org.uk

4: Family Support

Lone Parent Helpline

Offers advice and support to lone parent families.

- t: 0808 802 0925
w: www.loneparenthelpline.info

Makaton

Makaton is a program designed to provide a means of communication to individuals who cannot communicate efficiently by speaking. Makaton been effectively used with individuals who have cognitive impairments, Autism, Down's Syndrome, specific language impairment, multisensory impairment and acquired neurological disorders that have negatively affected the ability to communicate.

- t: 01276 606760
e: info@makaton.org
w: www.makaton.org

Maypole Project

Provides emotional support to children and young people with complex medical needs including life threatening and life shortening illnesses and their families across South East London.

- 51 High Street
Green Street Green
Orpington
Kent
BR6 6BQ
t: 01689 851596
e: info@themaypoleproject.co.uk
w: www.themaypoleproject.co.uk

Net Buddy

A new online resource enabling parents, carers, teachers and therapists concerned with children with learning disabilities to share hundreds of simple but sometimes ingenious tips.

- w: www.netbuddy.org.uk

Netmums.com

Netmums.com is a local network for mums aimed at helping mums cope and enjoy being a mum.

- w: www.netmums.com/bromley

Parents/Carers Social Evenings

A group of Parents/Carers, who all have children with additional needs or disabilities, often meet for social evenings. If you wish to join them, they meet on a monthly basis.

- Katrina O'Leary
t: 07880 786323

Dad's Group

An informal support group for fathers of children with additional needs, which aims to meet monthly.

- Chris Widgery
e: ccwisaway@gmail.com
- David Strawson
e: davidjstrawson@gmail.com

Pre-School Playgroups, Day Nurseries, Parent, Toddler and Baby Groups, in the Borough of Bromley

Details of the above can be obtained online at:

- w: www.bromley.gov.uk

4: Family Support

Rett Syndrome Association

Support and advice for families caring for children with Rett Syndrome via telephone support (7 days a week). Local support groups and an experienced network of contact supporters and advisors. Wide range of accessible written and DVD information.

- t: 01582 798911
e: support@rettuk.org
w: www.rett.uk.org

Sibs

An organisation that will listen to siblings, parents and professionals on the phone and will give a range of support and advice. Children can read about other "sibling" experiences on the website. For more information:

- t: 01535 645453
e: info@sibs.org.uk
w: www.sibs.org.uk

Special Abilities

An organisation working to promote equality of opportunities, choices and independence for all disabled children and adults across services. They produce comprehensive manuals covering issues such as Special Educational Needs and services available nationally to parents.

- t: 01924 385977
e: kidzaware@hotmail.com
w: www.specialabilities.co.uk

Unique

A rare chromosome disorder support group

- t: 01883 330766
e: info@rarechromo.org
w: www.rarechromo.co.uk

Working Families

Provides advice for working parents of disabled children.

- t: 020 7253 7243
0300 012 0312 (helpline)
e: office@workingfamilies.org.uk
w: www.workingfamilies.org.uk

Websites Families May Find Useful

www.4children.org.uk	4Children is a national charity that offers a free consultancy service for local authorities and parents
www.autism.org.uk	National Autistic Society
www.bliss.org.uk	Information regarding premature babies and tube feeding amongst other useful information
www.bromley.gov.uk	Information on services available in the London Borough of Bromley
www.bromley.gov.uk/childcare	Bromley's Early Years and Childcare Website
www.bromleymencap.org.uk	Bromley Mencap
www.bromleywelcare.org.uk	Bromley Welcare
www.burgessautistictrust.co.uk	Burgess Autistic Trust
www.cafamily.org.uk	Contact a family helps families who care for children with any disabilities or special need (excellent source of information)
www.carersbromley.org.uk	Supporting carers of all ages in Bromley
www.cerebra.org.uk	Information & support for parents of children with brain related conditions
www.changingfaces.org.uk	Support and information to people with facial differences and their families
www.childrenssociety.org.uk	The Children's Society Provides advocacy, consultation, participation and training services
www.colour-se7en.co.uk	CAPAAS (Children and Parents Asperger Autistic Support) - parent run support group
www.daycaretrust.org.uk	Useful information and factsheets for parents regarding childcare for children with a disability or special educational needs
www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/send	Provides information and resources on services for children and young people with SEN and disabilities
www.dh.gov.uk	Department of Health
www.gov.uk	Provides information on all public services including for disabled people
www.downs-syndrome.org.uk	Information, support & advice relating to Downs Syndrome

Websites Families May Find Useful

www.education.gov.uk	Department for Education
www.epilepsysociety.org.uk	Information & advice regarding epilepsy
www.familyfund.org.uk	The fund gives grants and information to families caring for a severely disabled or seriously ill child under 17 (means tested)
www.fledglings.org.uk	Advice for parents & professionals on specialised equipment
www.fpld.org.uk	Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities
www.handsestrust.org	Handsel Trust publications, up to date news, conferences, 'Team Around the Child'
www.hmrc.gov.uk	Inland Revenue and Tax Credits
www.ipsea.org.uk	Independent free advice on all aspects of special education
www.makaton.org	Makaton is a recognised approach to teaching communication for those with communications & learning difficulties
www.mencap.org.uk	www.mencap.org.uk
www.ncb.org.uk	National Children's Bureau, includes Early Support resources
www.ncype.org.uk	National Centre for Young People with epilepsy - enquiry service, information and signposting to other agencies
www.oaasis.co.uk	Office for advice, assistance, support & information on special needs
www.familylives.org.uk	A free 24hr helpline offering a confidential listening service to support anyone caring for children
www.parentpages.co.uk	Wide ranging information for all parents, from education to advice, days out, holidays, toys, events, forums, etc.
www.portage.org.uk	National Portage Association
www.undiagnosed.org.uk	SWAN (Syndromes without a Name) Supports families of children with undiagnosed medical conditions
www.rarechromo.org	'Unique' The Rare Chromosome Disorder Group. A source of information and support to families and individuals with any rare chromosome disorder
www.rnib.org.uk	The RNIB helps anyone with a sight problem
www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk	Formally 'RNID' helps anyone with a hearing problem

Websites Families May Find Useful

www.scope.org.uk	Scope
www.tamba.org.uk	Provides information & support networks for families of twins, triplets and more
www.turn2us.org.uk	Turn2us Helps people access the money available to them (benefits etc)
www.wellchild.org.uk	Wellchild National Charity for Sick Children
www.whizz-kidz.org.uk	Provides mobility aids & lightweight powered wheelchairs to children
www.workingfamilies.org.uk	A campaigning charity which supports and gives a voice to working parents and carers
Email: Bromley Early Support at espp.general@phoenixsch.org.uk	

5: Childcare

Early Years Childcare Service

Although only limited funding is available the Early Years and Childcare Service website will provide information and support to parents/ carers who require childcare to enable them to continue working, to return to work (full or part-time) or to enable them to attend training which may enhance their employment prospects. A limited brokerage service is available for parents who are unable to identify appropriate childcare, including childminding, day nurseries and pre-schools. For more information please email: Bromley.childcare@bromley.gov.uk

Bromley Family Information Service (FIS)

The FIS is an online mainstream service for parents and carers of all children, including children with disabilities. It provides comprehensive childcare information and advice, together with details of childcare and activities.

Although the FIS is not specifically for parents of disabled children, the information should be useful as most childcare provision is inclusive and available to disabled children. Other information includes lists of different types of locally available childcare and funding information. The website address is as follows:

- w: www.bromley.gov.uk/childcare

Bromley Mencap Childminding Network

Offers trained and registered childminders for children with learning disabilities up to 16 years of age. Also offers training courses for registered childminders wanting to work with children with learning disabilities. The network can be used for as little as 2 hours a week, whether parents work or need a break.

Bromley Mencap Childminding Network Plus is available for children with complex needs who require one to one care.

- Carol Harris
Rutland House
44 Masons Hill
Bromley BR2 9JG
t: 020 8466 0790
e: carol.harris@bromleymencap.org

6: Working Rights

Working Families

Working Families website has a wealth of information for parents of disabled children who want to get back to work. Working Families also runs two helplines for questions about combining paid work and caring for disabled children.

- t: Helpline 020 7253 7243
- t: Low income families legal helpline 0300 012 0312
- e: advice@workingfamilies.org.uk
- w: www.workingfamilies.org.uk

Annual Leave

The minimum amount of paid holiday (annual leave) employers must give is 28 days per annum for someone who works a five-day week. Part-time Employees are entitled to the proportionate amount of time that full-time employees who do the same job receive.

Emergency Leave

You do not have an automatic right to take time off for your child's medical or other appointments. If it is an 'emergency' you can 'take time off for dependents'. This is the right to take unpaid leave for a short period of time. You must let your employer know what is happening and get back to work as soon as you can.

Working Families has information about your rights to time off. For more information contact:

- t: 020 7253 4664
- w: www.workingfamilies.org.uk

Flexible Working

If you have worked for your employer for at least 26 weeks (including any period of maternity leave), as the parent of a child under 17 (or under 18 if the child has a disability and gets DLA), you have a right to ask your employer to help you care for your child. The sort of changes you might ask for include:

- Part-time work
- Change in hours
- Compressed hours
- Term-time working
- Working from home
- Job sharing

Your employer must consider your request but can turn it down if they have genuine business reasons for doing so. You must apply in writing, e.g. a letter or e-mail. Your employer might have a standard form (ask the HR department). You need to cover the following points: statutory rights, eligibility, the changes you are seeking and what effects these changes may have on your employer. State how these problems can be overcome and when you want these changes to start. Allow at least 12 weeks for a response, ensure you date your application.

If your application is turned down you have 14 days to appeal in writing and your employer must arrange an appeal meeting. If your request is turned down again, you should observe your firm's grievance procedure or seek assistance from an outside body, such as an employment tribunal.

The Working Families free legal helpline offers parents and carers confidential advice, remember to advise them that your child has special needs. Free advice for Dads on Paternity leave, time off for appointments and/or family emergencies and family-friendly hours is also available.

- t: 0300 012 0312

6: Working Rights

Parental Leave

You have the right to take parental leave if you have worked for your employer for at least one year. From 8 March 2013 you have the right to take 18 weeks per child until the child is 5 (up to age 18 if the child has a disability). Part time employees are entitled to a proportionate amount. Your employer does not have to let you take 18 weeks at once, however you can take it a day at a time for a disabled child. You should give your employer 21 days notice for parental leave. Parental leave is unpaid, although in some cases Income Support may be claimed when parental leave is taken. The limit on how much parental leave can be taken in a year is 4 weeks (unless the employer agrees otherwise).

Extended Parental Leave

From April 2010 parents of babies due on or after 3 April 2011 (and parents of adopted children after that date) have the right to share the mothers maternity leave. This means that a mother can transfer the last six months of leave to the father if she decides to return to work before the end of his paternity leave (which only lasts for two weeks)

- w: www.workingfamilies.org.uk

Other excellent sources of information for working families can be found on the Government website and the ACAS website

- w: www.gov.uk
- w: www.acas.org.uk

7: Health, Equipment & Other Useful Services

Aids and Adaptations to the Home

If a family feels they need specific aids or adaptations to the home, they can contact Occupational Therapy at Social Services for assessment. (See Disabled Facilities Grants information on page 34 of booklet)

- t: 020 8461 7777(Help Desk)

Blue Badge Parking Scheme

The Blue Badge Parking Scheme is run by the Council. Blue Badge application packs are available from Customer Services at the Civic Centre, Tel 020 8461 7629 or can be downloaded using the following link www.bromley.gov.uk/parking. The application form and the pack includes notes indicating which applicants are entitled to Automatic Eligibility - for instance, those in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance from the government. All other applicants aged two and above may apply for Discretionary Eligibility and will be required to attend a mobility assessment with an Occupational Therapist. Eligibility is based on the criteria set down by the Department of Transport.

Children under two years of age may be eligible for a discretionary badge if they fall under either or both of the following categories:

- a child who has a condition that requires that they must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around with the child without great difficulty; and
 - a child who has a condition that requires that they must always be kept near a motor vehicle so that they can, if necessary, be treated for that condition in the vehicle or be taken quickly in the vehicle to a place where they can be treated.
- t: 020 8461 7629
w: www.bromley.gov.uk/parking
e: LDS.parking@bromley.gov.uk

Bromley Council's Car Seat Centre

To help parents and carers choose the correct car seat for their child, Bromley Road Safety Unit has a car seat advisory centre which has a try before you buy service.

Not all car seats fit all cars and so it is important to check a seat is suitable for your car(s). The centre can also offer advice on car seats for children with disabilities, to help parents choose the correct seat. The service is free to Bromley residents (or parents/carers who work in Bromley) and works on an appointment system. To make an appointment telephone the unit on:

- t: 020 8313 4546
e: road.safety@bromley.gov.uk
w: www.bromley.gov.uk/roadsafety

Bus and Tram Discount Card

The Transport for London Bus and Tram Discount Card allows holders to travel on buses and trams at ½ adult-rate, using Oyster to pay as they go, or using 7 day, monthly or longer period Bus Passes. To apply for a discount card you must be a London resident, receiving Income Support, Employment and Support allowance or Job Seeker allowance for a minimum of 13 weeks.

You can download an application form from the Transport for London website www.tfl.gov.uk or pick one up from any Post office.

Congestion Charge Exemption

Individuals that have a Blue Badge can apply for the 100% discount from Congestion Charging. £10 registration payment is required.

- w: www.cclondon.com

Continence Supplies

All children over 4 years of age with disabilities are entitled to assessment for free nappies and continence supplies. Please contact your own Health Visitor or School Nurse for more details.

7: Health, Equipment & Other Useful Services

Disabled Facilities Grants

These grants are available towards the costs of adaptations to housing to make it suitable for a disabled person. It could include improving access, or adapting a bathroom for example. Ask your social services or housing department for details. Your child's occupational therapist will be able to advise you.

Disabled Persons' Parking Bay

Personal applications for a disabled parking bay to be placed outside of your home may be made to the Civic Centre. Applicants must follow strict guidelines. Disabled parking bays are not allocated to individuals, therefore, any disabled person may use the bay. A Blue Badge must be displayed at all times. For further information contact:

- t: 020 8313 4500
e: traffic@bromley.gov.uk

London Taxi Card Scheme

This scheme allows residents of the Bromley Borough aged 2 and over, who are:

- Registered Blind
- Or Receive High Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance to use licensed black cabs at subsidised rates, a flat fee of £2.50 is made to the taxicard holder for a journey costing up to £10.80 (the borough contributes £8.30). If your journey costs over £10.80 you will pay £2.50 together with costs over and above £10.80, Bromley Borough allows up to 8 single journeys per month, unused journeys cannot be carried forward.
- Children who are not in receipt of the High Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance and who are unable to use public transport may apply for a taxicard and may be required to have an occupational therapy assessment in order to qualify for a Taxi Card.

For more details contact:

- w: www.taxicard.org.uk or contact the Taxi Card Scheme at Bromley Social Services The Walnuts Orpington BR6 0UN
t: 020 8461 7777

RADAR National Key Scheme

The National Key Scheme offers independent access to disabled people to around 9,000 locked public toilets around the country. Keys can be purchased from RADAR.

- t: 0207 250 3222
e: enquiries@disabilityrightsuk.org
w: www.disabilityrightsuk.org

Wheelchair Service

(Including Major Buggies)

Assessment and provision of equipment for people with long-term mobility problems due to a permanent disability including manual and powered wheelchairs, buggies, special seating for children requiring postural management and pressure relief cushions for full time wheelchair users.

- Bassetts Resource Centre
Acorn Way
Starts Hill Road
Farnborough
Kent BR6 7UA
t: 01689 851438

8: Benefits

The following table outlines the main benefits a child or young person with a physical and/or learning disability may be able to claim (or have claimed on their behalf). For more information, contact the Benefits Enquiry Line for disabled people or your local Citizens Advice Bureau. Local Voluntary groups such as Burgess Autistic Trust, Bromley Mencap and Carers Bromley help parents to claim the right benefits.

- t: 0800 882 200 Benefits Enquiry Line (freephone)

Age	Benefit
From Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Living Allowance - Care Component Invalid Care Allowance for Carer Working Tax Credit or Childcare Tax Credit Family Fund Child Benefit
Age 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine Damage Payment
Age 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Living Allowance - Mobility Component Higher Rate (may be used to buy a new or used vehicle by hire purchase through Motability - see details on page 41)
Age 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Living Allowance - Mobility Component Lower Rate

Please see the next page for specific details about benefits.

Benefit Changes

Recent and imminent changes in benefits are as follows:

- Changes to Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit including the number of weekly hours to be worked in order to be eligible.
- From April 2013, a cap on the total amount of benefit that most people aged 16-64 can get.
- From April 2013, changes to Disability Living Allowance so that people aged 16-64 will move to Personal Independence payments instead.
- Changes to the rules on Housing and Council tax benefits from April 2013.
- w: www.gov.uk

Please note: *All rates quoted were correct at the time of printing and amounts are subject to change.*

Carers Allowance

Carers Allowance is a Carers benefit, paid to people aged over 16, who spend 35 hours or more per week regularly caring for a severely disabled person, i.e. someone who claims the higher or middle rate care component of D.L.A. To be eligible, you must not be earning more than £100.00 per week net. Carers allowance is usually paid every four weeks. As from April 2013 it is £59.75 a week (amounts are subject to change).

The government will introduce a medical test to claim Disability Living Allowance (DLA) from 2013. The test will replace the current application forms. Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) will start to replace DLA for over 16's from April 2013.

For working families caring for a disabled child, the Carer's Allowance rules allow certain expenses to be deducted from earnings, so you may still qualify if you earn more than the £100

8: Benefits

per week limit. Expenses that are allowed are for things like:

- Some National Insurance (NI) contributions
- Income Tax
- Half of any money you pay towards personal or occupational pension schemes
- Other expenses you have to pay because they are a necessary part of your job

After allowing for these things, you are allowed up to half the rest of the money you earn to help meet the cost of paying someone else (but not a close relative) to look after a child or children, or the person you look after, while you are at work.

- Benefits Enquiry Line
t: 0800 882 200
w: www.gov.uk

(or pick up a leaflet at your local Job Centre, library, Citizens Advice Bureau etc.)

Child Benefit

- Paid from birth until your child is 16 (or 19 if they stay in full-time education)
- You should claim benefit as soon as:
- Your child is born
- A child comes to live with you
- You adopt a child
- You start to contribute to the cost of looking after a child
- To receive child benefit, you need to complete a claim form and submit the child's birth or adoption certificate.
- If your child has been born, you should have got a claim form in the 'Bounty Pack' from the hospital. Or you can complete a form on line at:
 - w: www.gov.uk/child-benefit

- Child benefit is usually paid every four weeks. It is worth £20.30 a week for the eldest child and then £13.40 per week for each additional child. (Amounts are subject to change.)
- Child Benefit can be automatically backdated for 3 months.
- Child Benefit Help Line t: 0845 302 1444 or by text phone on t: 0845 302 1474

Child Tax Credit

- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE WORKING TO CLAIM CHILD TAX CREDIT.
- Is designed to support families with children.
- Child Tax Credit is paid in addition to Child Benefit and Working Tax Credit.
- Based on household income.
- It is paid directly to the main carer, directly into their bank account.
- If you qualify for Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance – you will be entitled to the maximum amount of Child Tax Credit.
- Applications are based on your income for the previous tax year but can be revised, so you must notify HM Revenue and Customs of any change, for example if you go on maternity leave.
- Any Child Benefit, Maternity Allowance or the first £100 a week of Statutory Maternity Pay that you receive will be ignored when calculating your family income. However, other certain benefits including Carers Allowance is taken into account when calculating your family income.
- Disabled Child element. This is included where any child or young person is in receipt of either element of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) at any rate or is registered as blind.
- Severely Disabled Child element. This is included where any child is in receipt of DLA

8: Benefits

highest rate care component. This is payable in addition to the Disabled Child element.

Child's Trust Fund

A Child Trust Fund (CTF) is a long-term tax-free savings account for children. All children eligible for a CTF account should now have one.

Eligibility

Your child is entitled if all the following apply:

- they were born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011
- you were paid Child Benefit for them for at least one day before 4 January 2011
- your child lives in the UK
- they aren't subject to any immigration restriction

If your child is looked after by a local council

They got a CTF account if both the following apply:

- they were looked after by a local council before 3 April 2011
- they meet the other qualifying conditions above (excluding child benefit)
- w: www.gov.co.uk/child-trust-funds

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

This is the main disability benefit for people with learning disabilities, and other disabilities. It is for people whose illness or disability is likely to last a long time and who need extra help with personal care or to keep them safe. From April 2013, Disability Living Allowance will only be for children under 16 or people over 65; people over 16 and under 64 will need to apply for the Personal Independence Payment instead. DLA has two parts:

- The care component can be claimed from birth.
- The mobility component can be claimed from

age 3 for the higher rate and age 5 for the lower rate. There is an automatic entitlement to higher rate mobility for those who are severely visually impaired.

Someone can get just the care component, or just the mobility component, or both. Disability Living Allowance is usually paid every four weeks. The rates from April 2013 are as follows:

- Care Component
 - Highest rate: £79.15
 - Middle rate: £53.00
 - Lowest rate: £21.00
- Mobility Component
 - Highest rate: £55.25
 - Lowest rate: £21.00

(Amounts are subject to change)

DLA can be awarded for an indefinite period or a fixed period. In either case the award continues for as long as your child continues to satisfy the disability tests and other conditions of entitlement. The government will introduce a medical test to claim Disability Living Allowance from 2013. The test will replace the current application forms.

- Benefits Enquiry Line
 - t: 0800 882 200 (or pick up a leaflet at your local Job Centre, library, Citizens Advice Bureau, etc.)
 - w: www.gov.uk

Disabled Child Premium and Carer Premium with Income Support

Income Support is a means-tested benefit to help individuals or families on a low income and with savings below the current limit. If you get Income Support and your child gets Disability Living Allowance you will get an additional Disabled Child Premium (currently £57.89 a week) with your Income Support. If you get Carer's Allowance you will get an additional weekly Carer Premium paid with your Income Support, currently £33.30 a week.

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Carers Allowance is considered as income for the purpose of Income Support calculations.

Protecting Your Additional State Benefit

The State Second Pension has replaced the State Earnings Pension Scheme. The amount of additional pension you receive depends on how much you have earned over your working life. If your child has a disability you can automatically protect your additional pension beyond their 6th birthday if you are claiming Carer's Allowance. If you are not claiming Carer's Allowance you will need to claim by filling in form DS700 from your tax office or by visiting www.gov.uk

Working Tax Credit

- This is a payment to top up the earnings of WORKING PEOPLE ON LOW INCOMES.
- INCLUDING those who DO NOT have children.
- If you are responsible for child/young person you can claim WTC if over 16 and work more than 16 hours a week.
- To be eligible:
- Lone parents must work 16 hours or more.
- Couples, who have one or more children, must work 24 hours or more, (with one of them working at least 16 hours), there are exemptions to this rule if one partner receives a disability benefit, or is in hospital or prison.
- Single people without children and who are aged 25-59 must work at least 30 hours.
- People aged 60 or over must work at least 16 hours.
- Includes CHILDCARE ELEMENT to help with the costs of childcare.

- You can claim up to 70% of childcare costs for registered or approved childcare up to certain limits. The limit is £175 a week for one child, and £300 for two or more. (Amounts subject to change)
- You will be 'treated as working' during Ordinary Maternity Leave (providing you were working, on average, at least 16 hours a week before you started your leave).
- Previously WTC was paid through your employer. This is no longer the case and payments will be made directly from HM Revenue and Customs by direct payments to your nominated Bank/Building Society.
- Tax Credits
t: 0345 300 3900

Universal Credit

Universal Credit will be introduced from October 2013. The transition from the current system of benefits and tax credits to Universal Credit will be gradual and it is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

Universal Credit will replace:

- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credits
- Working Tax Credits
- Housing Benefit

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British Gas Energy Trust

Provides grants to cover arrears of domestic gas/ electricity charges and other essential domestic bills and costs for domestic customers of British Gas. Application forms are available by writing to the Trust or downloadable from the website.

- PO Box 42
Peterborough
PE3 8XH
t: 01733 421 021
e: bget@charisgrants.com
w: www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk

Cold Weather Payments

Are paid for each week of very cold weather in your area if you receive income related Employment and Support Allowance. A payment of £25 is made when the average temperature where you live is recorded, or is forecast to be, zero degrees celsius or below over seven consecutive days during the period from 1 November to 31 March. For further information:

- w: www.gov.uk

Community Care Budgeting Loan

You maybe eligible to apply for a Budgeting Loan which you will have to pay back over a agreed time. You will need to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit; (Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Income Related Empolment Seekers Allowance). For further information contact your local job centre or

- w: www.gov.uk

Council Tax Disability Reduction

This is a reduction available if your home is specially adapted for your disabled son or daughter. For example, if your child needs a ground floor bedroom or bathroom, or an extra room for wheelchair accessibility. Ask for details at your local council office.

EDF Energy Trust

Provides grants to cover the payment of energy bills and other essential household bills or costs domestic customers of EDF Energy Brand, London Energy, Seeboard Energy or SWEB Energy. Application forms are available from the Trust by telephone or downloadable from their website. Proof of income required.

- EDF Energy Trust
PO Box 42
Peterborough
PE3 8XH
t: 01733 421021
e: edfet@charisgrants.com
w: www.charisgrants.com

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

There are two types of ESA:

- Contributory ESA (meaning you must have paid some national insurance to qualify)
- Income related ESA (meaning how much you get depends on your income and savings)
- Benefits Enquiry Line
t: 0800 882 200
w: www.gov.uk
(or pick up a leaflet at your local Job Centre, library, Citizens Advice Bureau, etc.)

ESA is paid at two different rates; a lower rate during the initial 13 week assessment period, and then at one or two higher rates. During the first 13 weeks Jobcentre Plus will decide whether your health problems are sufficient for you to be paid ESA at all. If they accept that you have limited capacity for work, they will then decide which of the two groups you fall into:

- The 'support group' – people considered severely disabled
- The 'work related activity group' – this is everyone else. Claimants in this group will have to attend regular work-focused interviews aimed at helping improve their chances of eventually moving into work.

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People in the support group will get more generous ESA payments than those in the employment related activity group.

ESA involves a medical assessment called the 'Work Capability Assessment'.

From April 2013, a "cap" will be put on the total amount of benefit that most people aged 16-64 can get. The cap won't affect you if you are in the Support Group.

Energy Saving Trust

Advice to families on low incomes, including families with disabled children, to cut energy costs.

- t: 0300 123 1234
w: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Family Fund Extra

Family Fund Extra offers an online price comparison service for a wide range of goods from major retailers. The Family Fund receives a commission on every purchase providing them with additional funding to support Family Grants.

- w: www.familyfundextra.org.uk

Help with your Water Rates

Thames Water offer a discount for families with disabled children who have a water meter installed and who have to use a large amount of water due to the child's needs (Water Sure Scheme).

- t: 0845 6410068

Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS)

This is a government-backed scheme that could help if your household has a temporary and unexpected drop in income and is unable to meet your monthly repayments. If you are accepted for HMS, your lender will delay some of the monthly interest due on your mortgage. Not all mortgage lenders are providing HMS.

- w: www.gov.uk

Income Support

You can only claim Income Support as a lone parent if you have a child below school age. Many lone parents whose only or youngest child is of school age will have to sign on as available for work and claim Jobseekers Allowance instead.

Please note that these rules will not apply to lone parents who can claim Income Support on some other grounds separate from their status as a lone parent.

In order to claim Income Support as a carer you do not necessarily have to be getting Carer's Allowance. It is sufficient that you provide regular and substantial care to someone who gets Disability Living Allowance (DLA) care component at the middle or the highest rate. It may be possible to claim Income Support as a carer while the person you look after is awaiting a decision on a DLA claim.

- Benefits Enquiry Line
t: 0800 882 200 (or pick up a leaflet at your local Job Centre, library, Citizens Advice Bureau, etc.)
w: www.gov.uk

8: Benefits

Motability

Motability is a national UK charity, which helps disabled people and their families to become mobile, by enabling them to use their government funded disability allowances to lease or buy a new or used car, powered wheelchair or scooter.

Motability may be able to offer financial help towards the cost of a suitable car, adaptations, driving lessons or a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

- t: Helpline/Advice 0845 456 4566
w: www.motability.co.uk

New rules on Housing and Council Tax Benefits

Income from Child Benefit is not taken into account when calculating entitlement to these benefits.

If you are receiving Housing or Council Tax benefits at the moment, you could be affected by changes being made under the Welfare Reform Act. New benefit rules will apply from April 2013.

A benefits cap is being introduced that will limit the total amount of benefits some individuals and households can receive.

- t: 020 8464 3333
w: www.bromley.gov.uk

Reduced Travel Fares

Bus and Tram Discount Cards are available to help people in London on Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance or have been getting Jobseeker's Allowance for at least 13 weeks, who are not entitled to free or discounted travel. With this Card journeys on buses and trams are half the normal Oyster rate or you can get half rate Bus and Tram Passes.

- t: 0845 330 9876
w: www.tfl.gov.uk/discountcard

Road Tax Exemption (Vehicle Excise Duty)

If your child gets the higher rate Disability Living Allowance Mobility Component, you should have been sent a Vehicle Excise Duty exemption form by the Department of Work & Pensions. If you need to complete a form, they are available from:

- D.L.A. Unit (VED)
Warbreck House
Warbreck Hill
Blackpool
FY2 0YE

Please note that if your child qualifies for road tax exemption, you may use the Dartford Tunnel toll and bridge, free of charge, you will need to register your car by completing and returning an application form available from:

- t: 01322 280200/ 01322 221603
w: www.dart-tag.co.uk

Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI)

If you claim Income Support, income based Job Seekers Allowance or income related Employment and Support Allowance, it is possible to receive help towards your Mortgage interest payments. SMI is usually paid directly to your lender. Only the interest on your mortgage is paid. There is a 13-week waiting period for Income Mortgage Interest Scheme.

- t: Contact a Family helpline 0808 808 3555
w: www.gov.uk

Sure Start Maternity Grant

Lump sum of £500 for expectant or new mums on a low income for your first child only (or children if you have a multiple birth). To apply, complete claim pack SF100 (SureStart), available from Jobcentre Plus or download at:

- w: www.gov.uk

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The Family Fund

The Family Fund is paid for by the government, but is run by the Family Fund Trust for the families with severely disabled children aged 17 or under. The fund gives money to buy equipment or services for children who need extra help because of disabilities. Family income and savings are taken into account. They can help with modest transport costs and driving lessons for the child's main carer, for families who meet their general criteria.

- Unit 4
Alpha Court
Monks Cross Drive
Huntingdon
York
YO32 9WN
t: 08449 744099
e: info@familyfund.org.uk
w: www.familyfund.org.uk

Transport Costs to Hospital for Treatment

If you receive Income Support or income based Job Seekers Allowance, you can claim help with travel costs to and from hospital for NHS treatment, when escorting your child. You can get a refund of your fares directly from the hospital if you can prove you are in receipt of benefits.

Vaccine Damage Payment

A Vaccine Damage Payment is a tax-free lump sum for someone who has been severely disabled as the result of a routine vaccine, e.g. diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, rubella, etc. Those damaged before birth as a result of their mother being vaccinated are also included in the scheme. More information available from:

- t: Helpline 01772 899944
w: www.gov.uk

9: Fun Places to Visit/Things to Do

The following are ideas of places to visit with your child/children.

Indoor Play - Children's Soft Play Centres

Buzz Zone – Soft Play

- Pavilion Leisure Centre
Kentish Way
Bromley BR1 3EF
t: 020 8313 9911
(Open: Mon-Sun 10.00am -6.00pm)

Gambado Beckenham

- Natwest Sports Ground
Copers Cope Road
Beckenham BR3 1NZ
t: 020 8662 6915

Gambado, Beckenham is a fun, indoor play centre. The centre has an interactive play frame, carousel and dodgems. All guests need to register. Gambado have agreed that for every paying child with a disability or additional need who attends the Phoenix Centre, a parent/carer can enter free of charge. Carers need to quote the Phoenix Centre when entering.

Gambado also offers exclusive play sessions for children with a disability or additional need. Carers enter free of charge, for more details call:

Buzz Zone

- 24 Beckenham Road
Beckenham
BR3 4PF
t: 020 8650 0233
(Open: Mon-Sun 9.15am – 5.45pm)

Walnuts Leisure Group

- Lynch Gate Road
Orpington
BR6 0TJ
t: 01689 870 533
(Open: Mon-Sun 10.00am-6.00pm)

Exclusive play sessions for Burgess Autistic Trust/Bromley Mencap (Second Wednesday of every month 4.00–6.00pm)
t: 020 8466 2897

All of these centres may be busy during school holidays and at weekends.

9: Fun Places to Visit/Things to Do

Parks & Green Space - Children's Playgrounds

Directions to locations: www.bromley.gov.uk
Landscape Helpdesk: 020 8313 4471

- Andy Biggs (*Parks Project Officer*)
Streetscene & Green Space
Environmental Services
Civic Centre
Bromley
t: 020 8461 7515

Inclusive Play Sites

Many of the Boroughs Parks & Green Spaces playgrounds have equipment that can be used by children with additional needs or physical disabilities, the list below shows which sites have specific items of inclusive equipment.

Swings

(Standard swing frame with a specifically designed seat with full back support & most have a rollercoaster type safety harness too)

- Alexandra Recreation Ground
- Charterhouse Open Space
- Church House Gardens
- Churchfields Recreation Ground
- Coney Hall Recreation Ground
- Croydon Road Recreation Ground *
- Husseywell Open Space
- Kelsey Park *
- McAndrews Recreation Ground*
- Mottingham Sports Ground
- Priory Gardens
- Poverest Recreation Ground*
- St Pauls Cray Recreation Ground

- Whitehall Recreation Ground
 - Widmore Recreation Ground
- (* swing seat that can take an adjustable harness.)

Nest Swing

(A swing frame with a large rope 'birds nest' type seat enabling carers to accompany child)

- Chislehurst Recreation Ground
- Croydon Road Recreation Ground
- Kelsey Park
- Poverest Park
- Hollydale Recreation Ground
- Glentrammon Recreation Ground
- Penge Recreation Ground
- Willett Recreation Ground

Inclusive Roundabouts

(Flush roundabouts that wheelchairs or buggies can go on)

- Blake Recreation Ground
- Coney Hall Recreation Ground
- Croydon Road Recreation Ground
- Crystal Palace Park
- Elmers End Recreation Ground
- Farnborough Recreation Ground
- Glentrammon Recreation Ground
- Harvington Estate
- Hoblingwell Wood
- Kelsey Park
- Martins Hill Recreation Ground
- Mottingham Recreation Ground
- Oaklands School
- Penge Recreation Park

9: Fun Places to Visit/Things to Do

- Poverest Park
- Priory Gardens
- St Pauls Cray Recreation Ground
- Willett Recreation Ground

Modular Play Equipment with Inclusive Access/features

(Items have specific platforms for wheelchair transfer or special ramps for easy access. Items may also have extra wide slides to enable parent or carer to accompany child)

- Blake Recreation Ground
- Biggin Hill Recreation
- Church House Gardens
- Churchfields Recreation Ground
- Croydon Road Recreation Ground
- Crystal Palace Park
- Glentrammon Recreation Ground
- Kings Road Play Area
- Leamington Open Space
- Oaklands School
- Penge Recreation Ground
- Petts Wood Recreation Ground
- Poverest Park
- Husseywell Open Space
- Mottingham Recreation Ground
- St Pauls Cray Recreation Ground
- Whitehall Recreation Ground
- Widmore Recreation Ground
- Willett Recreation Ground

Sand Play Areas

(Sites with play sand and access ramps for wheelchairs as well as play features for all abilities)

- Church House Gardens
- Crystal Palace Park
- Riverside Gardens

Christmas Tree Farm

- Cudham Road
Downe Village
Orpington BR6 7LFT
t: 01689 861603
(Open: Mon-Sun, 10.00am-5.30pm)

Visitors are able to feed and come in close contact with the animals. Tea gardens, café and shop on site.

Crystal Palace Park

- Thicket Road
Penge

Children's play area, café and toilets on site. Dinosaur trail, maze and sand play area

9: Fun Places to Visit/Things to Do

Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools

Swimming lessons for children with additional needs are run at all Bromley Mytime pools. For more information, make enquiries at your local pool or visit the Bromley Mytime website:

- w: www.mytimeactive.co.uk

Biggin Hill Memorial Pool

- Church Road
Biggin Hill
TN16 3LB
t: 01959 574468

No specific sessions for children with additional needs but they do hold a 'Toddler Splash' on Saturdays and Sundays 10am - 4pm.

Darrick Wood Swimming Pool

- Lovibonds Avenue
Orpington
BR6 8EW
t: 01689 857021

Offers Baby Splash and Junior Splash sessions. Tuesday 9.30-10.30am; Saturday 3-4pm and Sunday 9-11.30am. A small, warm friendly pool with changing rooms located poolside.

The Pavilion Leisure Centre

- Kentish Way
Bromley
BR1 3EF
t: 020 8313 9911

No specific sessions for children with additional needs but they do hold a 'Toddler Splash' on Wednesday mornings, 11am-12pm.

The Spa Leisure Centre

- 24 Beckenham Road
Beckenham
BR3 4PF
t: 020 8650 0233

Family Splash Sessions on Wednesdays 3-4pm and Thursdays 12-1.30pm.

Majorie McClure School – Parent and Child Swim Classes

Swimming classes for pre-school children with special needs, with an experienced and qualified teacher in the water.

- Aquakids
t: 07802 660516

Every Thursday 10am

West Wickham Leisure Centre

- Station Road
West Wickham
BR4 0PY
t: 020 8777 5686

Family Splash Sessions for children with additional needs and their families.

(Fourth Saturday of every month 4.30-5.30pm)

Phone the centre to book.

9: Fun Places to Visit/Things to Do

Fun things to do

Bromley Mencap Family Fun Days

During the school holidays events and outings are organised for all the family. There are different activities to suit all age groups. These could include a music or story event, football or circus skills, pottery, cinema, parties or coach trips. Families receive details via the Bromley Mencap Bulletin or contact:

- Gill Eldridge
t: 020 8466 0790
w: www.bromleymencap.org/family

Bromley Valley Specialist Needs Gym Club

Specialist Needs Gym Club on Monday evenings, 6-7pm for all ages

- Bromley Valley Gymnastics Club
Chipperfield Road
Orpington
BR5 2QR
t: 020 8300 5964
w: www.bromleyvalley.co.uk

Cinema Discount Scheme

Cinemas across the UK support a National Discount Scheme, which entitles the holder (a disabled person) to one free ticket for the person accompanying them.

- t: 0845 123 1292
w: www.ceacard.co.uk

Dinky Dance

Dinky Dance is a Dance and Movement Class for boys and girls with Special Educational Needs, aged up to 6 years. The class welcomes siblings and friends. It is run on Saturday mornings.

- t: 07939 561 075
e: meg@dinkydance.com

Special Ks

Special KClub provides sporting activities for Children with Disabilities from age 4, on Saturday mornings at the Park Langley Club.

- Sally Nunn
44a Wickham Way
Beckenham
BR3 3AF
t: 020 8658 9028

9: Fun Places to Visit/Things to Do

London attractions and sights for people with disabilities

- w: www.londonforfun.com/info-for-London-attractions.htm

London Eye

Located on the bank of the River Thames near Waterloo Station. The 135-metre high wheel is completely wheelchair accessible and can be temporarily stopped to allow safe entry. All paying disabled guests (including disabled children) may take one personal assistant with them for free. There is also a fast-track service for disabled customers if required.

- t: 0871 222 0188 (disabled booking line)
e: accessiblebooking@londoneye.com
w: www.londoneye.com

London's Transport Museum

Fully wheelchair accessible with ramps and lifts throughout, and a wheelchair that can be borrowed. There is also an audio guide for the visually impaired, has a fixed loop hearing system and a special information pack for anyone with learning difficulties. There is also a soft play area in the Museum. Free entry for under 16's, Adults £15.

- London Transport Museum
Covent Garden Piazza
London, WC2E 7BB
t: 020 7379 6344
w: www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Science Museum

Wheelchair accessible. Accessibility map is available from Information Desk. A number of interactive galleries to interact with the exhibits through vision, sound and cognitive ability including The Garden, Pattern Pod, Energy and Launchpad. These can be very crowded and visitors with additional needs are advised to contact the Enquiry Line before their visit. All interactive galleries are marked by a hands-on symbol on the map. Free entry.

- The Science Museum
Exhibition Road
South Kensington
SW7 2DD
t: 020 7942 4000
w: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Victoria & Albert Museum of Childhood

Located in East London. Wheelchair accessible and also available at the Information Desk. Parking for visitors with access needs. To book call on 020 8983 5200. Many hands-on activities for visitors, including a multi-sensory space - the Sensory Pod. incorporating light tubes with a controllable sequence of colours, a tactile mural, an infinity hut and a sound beam bench which converts sound into vibrations. Fabric touch boards, dressing up costumes, books and replica toys are found throughout the Museum. Short Spotlight Tours are run every day in the Galleries with storytelling, games and object handling. Call the museum with any specific access requirements you have at the time of booking. Free entry.

- V&A Museum of Childhood
Cambridge Heath Road
London E2 9PA
t: 020 8983 5200
e: moc@vam.ac.uk
w: www.museumofchildhood.org.uk

10: Holidays For Families with Children with Additional Need or Disabilities

Adcare

Adcare provides grants to children and young people with a learning disability who want to go on holiday. Adcare is part of the Royal Mencap Society. The grant could pay for a carer or supporter to assist someone with a learning disability on holiday. The grant is awarded to those people who find it hard to pay for a holiday themselves and who have the greatest needs. The maximum grant each person can get is £500. For more information please contact:

- t: 01923 776 729
- e: inform@mencap.org.uk
- w: www.mencap.org.uk

Cerebra's Holiday Home

Cerebra offer the use of a holiday home "Vallecchia" in Pembrokeshire to children with brain related conditions and their families. There is a huge demand for this property so you should apply early if you are interested. For more information on the house Cerebra have a brochure you can download at cerebra.org.uk or telephone 0800 328 1159.

To apply you must complete a booking form and obtain two references. One reference should be from a clinical source (such as your GP, Occupational Therapist or Health Visitor) and the other from a non-clinical source (professionals that work with your child such as a social worker or teacher). Both referees should know your child and should confirm your child's condition and that a holiday at Vallecchia would be beneficial.

Please note that no charge is made for the accommodation to members of Cerebra and membership is free.

- t: 0800 328 1159
- e: callecchia@cerebra.org.uk
- w: www.cerebra.org.uk

Mencap

Mencap has produced a resource list which contains information about holidays and short breaks for people with learning disabilities including holidays for children. This is available from their website:

- w: www.mencap.org.uk

The Family Fund Trust

The Family Fund Trust gives grants to lower income families with severely disabled children for things that make life easier and more enjoyable, they will consider any request on its merits and within the following grant-making criteria:

- The Family Fund is open to families with children and young people aged 17 and under who have a severe disability
- The family must be resident in the UK
- Families whose income is entirely from benefits are eligible for consideration
- The Fund can consider applications where money coming into the household is less than £28,000 (including net pay, maintenance, interest on savings and benefits, excluding DLA, AA or Child Benefit)
- The Family Fund cannot help on behalf of children and young people in local authority care, including those living with relatives or foster carers. For more information contact:
 - Family Fund
 - t: 08449 744099
 - w: www.familyfund.org.uk

Bromley Early Support cannot endorse or recommend any of the afore mentioned organisations/holidays directly.

10: Holidays For Families with Children with Additional Need or Disabilities

Alternative Funding and Sources/ links for Holidays and Other Leisure Activities

3H Fund

Organises subsidised group holidays for physically disabled children and adults with the support of volunteer helpers. In addition, when funds are available, they can provide grants to families on low income with a physically or learning disabled dependant to have a modest holiday in the UK.

- 3H Fund
B2, Speldhurst Business Park
Langton Road
Speldhurst
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN3 0AQ
t: 01892 860207
e: info@3hfund.org.uk
w: www.3fund.org.uk

Farrell Charitable Trust

Grants given for the provision of holidays for people with a physically or complex multiple disability who are on low incomes or in receipt of Direct Payments, DLA or Income Support and who can demonstrate and evidence urgent financial need. Grants are normally between £50-500 towards a day trip, holiday/short break or respite care in the UK.

- Trust Administrator
Farrell Trust
PO Box 531
Welwyn Garden City
AL7 9JT
e: ftcharity@yahoo.co.uk
w: www.farrelltrust.org.uk

Give2Give

Offers a free caravan holiday (up to 7 nights) at Coombe Haven Holiday Park near to Hastings for individuals and/or families in need across Bromley.

- t: 01689 638141
e: caravan@g2g.org.uk

Happy Days Children's Charity

A national children's charity dedicated to providing holidays, residential trips, days out and theatre trips for disadvantaged young people (age 3 to 17) with special needs.

- t: 01582 755999
e: enquiries@happydayscharity.org

10: Holidays For Families with Children with Additional Need or Disabilities

The National Holiday Fund for Sick Children

Type of grant: provides holidays to Florida.

Eligibility criteria: chronically or terminally ill children and temporarily or permanently disabled children aged 8-18 years. Does not provide grants towards independent travel.

Contact the charity for details of how to apply.

- NHF
14 Buttermere
Hemsby
Norfolk
NR29 4JZ
e: office@nhfcharity.co.uk
w: www.nhfcharity.co.uk

Tourism For All

A national charity and the UK's central source of holiday and travel information and support for disabled children and their carers. Enquiries welcome from individuals with physical, sensory and learning disabilities, carers and older people. A database comprising of different fields of information, about all aspects of accessible holidays and travel in the UK and at selected overseas destinations.

- w: www.tourismforall.org.uk

Travel Insurance

Companies which offer travel insurance to disabled travellers:

Free Spirit – PJ Hayman & Co Ltd

- Stansted House
Rowland's Castle
PO9 6DX
t: 0845 230 5000
e: freespirit@pjhayman.com
w: www.pjhayman.com

Travelability – J&M Insurance Services (UK) plc

- Peregrine House
Bakers Lane
Epping
Essex
CM16 5DQ
t: 0845 338 1638
w: www.jmi.co.uk

Venturesure

- PO Box 385
Tonbridge
Kent
TN9 9AN
w: www.venturesure.co.uk

11: Suppliers/Equipment Parents Have Found Useful

The Early Support Team hopes you will find the following information helpful. The equipment/products detailed have been sourced by our families and they have passed the information on to us, as they have found the items useful and wish to share their knowledge with other parents/carers. If you have any contributions for the next booklet please do let us know.

Crelling Harnesses

Manufacturers of a large range of belts and harnesses designed to provide additional support when standard car seat belts or seats fail to contain your child safely. The harnesses are suitable for use on all kinds of equipment.

- t: 01253 852298

Extra Large Nappies

Parents can find that if their child is not toilet trained, they may outgrow standard size nappies. Some of our parents/carers have found the following supplier helpful, ask for details of the supreme fit range. For more information:

- Wrightman & Parrish Ltd
t: 01323 440 444
w: www.w-p.co.uk

Family Safeshop

Design and sell tags and wrist bands which display your mobile phone number so in the event of your child becoming lost someone will be able to help reunite your child with you.

- t: 01342 718679
w: www.familysafepus-shop.co.uk

Fledglings

This registered charity helps parents and carers of a child with special needs of any kind to find simple, affordable solutions to practical problems e.g. large bibs, radar keys, swim nappies, reusable sheet protectors, special drinking cups and all-in-one sleepsuits for any age, for more information:

- t: 0845 458 1124
w: www.fledglings.org.uk

MERU

Provides custom-made items not available commercially and also a small projects service free for families with disabled children offering volunteers who are able to build or adapt equipment that doesn't quite work for its intended use. For example may be making table legs longer so a special chair or wheelchair can go underneath. Applications must come via a referral. They also offer an Information and Advice Service for parents and therapists nationwide.

- t: 01372 725203
e: info@meru.org.uk
w: www.meru.org.uk

Rackety's

Rackety's design and sell clothing for children with special needs and disabilities including, swimwear, all in one vests up to age 14, children's wheelchair capes, all in one 'Joey Vests' with poppers across the tummy for children who are tube fed. For more information:

- t: 01538 381 430
w: www.disabled-clothing.co.uk

11: Suppliers/Equipment Parents Have Found Useful

Sainsbury's Special Needs Shopping Trolley

Following a successful campaign by one of our parents, a specially adapted trolley has been supplied by Sainsbury's at their Locksbottom store. A further trolley with a harness for larger children is also available.

You can ask to use the trollies at the customer services desk.

Sensory Toys

Sensory Toy Warehouse special needs toys and sensory toys are used throughout schools, hospitals, care homes, nurseries and importantly in family homes.

- w: www.sensorytoywarehouse.com

Shopmobility at the Glades

The shopmobility service at the Glades gives shoppers access to free services including wheelchair hire, validation of tickets for free parking and advice on all facilities for the disabled within the centre. The centre is located in the Frogzone on car park level one. You need to register for the service.

- t: 020 8313 0031
w: www.theglades.uk.com

Special Needs Toys

A range of special needs toys from mobile multi-sensory items to swings, trampolines and other sensory integration kits, switch rewards and small sensory toys.

- w: www.specialneedstoys.com

Tough Furniture

A company that makes furniture suitable for schools, care centres and homes to withstand challenging behaviours.

- t: 01588 674340
w: www.toughfurniture.com

Disclaimer: *Please note that the contributions on the parents/carers page are organisations/products/equipment parents and carers have sourced and found helpful. Bromley Early Support cannot endorse or recommend any of the afore mentioned organisations/products/equipment directly.*

12: Charitable Organisations

The following information has been reproduced with permission from the resource directory researched by Pelin Ahmet (Information Officer, Specialist Support and Disability Service).

Raising a child with a disability or additional need can be very expensive. Applications to charitable organisations could assist with funding of expensive specialist equipment, leisure activities/breaks, educational aids, essential items and other necessities to improve the quality of life for your child.

The following is a list of examples of what could be applied for:

- Driving lessons (for the carer)
- Therapies and activities e.g. horse riding, swimming lessons (for the child)
- Touch screen computer and educational software
- Clothing/bedding
- Sensory toys and other educational aids
- Holidays (UK/abroad) and short breaks (for the carer, family and child)
- Trampoline
- Travel cot and car seats
- Upgrade wheelchair/buggy and other mobility aids
- Sensory garden equipment or sensory room
- Specialist trike/bicycle
- Leisure activities
- Specialist bed/cot (postural care)
- Funding for childcare (under 3 - for disabled child/siblings)
- Repairs to the home and decoration (carpeting)
- Rain cover/sun shade for major buggy/wheelchair
- Table and chair/highchair (support equipment)

- Bathing equipment
- Cooker/washing machine/tumble dryer
- Utility bills (in arrears/trust fund i.e. EDF energy and British Gas)

All charities have an eligibility criteria which must be met for a grant to be awarded and some charities only assist/support specific conditions or syndromes. You should contact the relevant charity in the first instance to check if you meet their criteria before applying. Funding is sometimes dependant on household income and other benefits.

Act Foundation

Provides equipment such as specialised wheelchairs, other mobility aids and equipment, including medical equipment to assist independent living or additional financial assistance for recreational and respite breaks. Application forms are downloadable from their website and can either be printed or completed on – screen and emailed to the Trust.

- The Grants Manager
The Act Foundation
61 Thames Street
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 1QW
t: 01753 753900
e: info@theactfoundation.co.uk
w: www.theactfoundation.co.uk

12: Charitable Organisations

Caudwell Charitable Trust

The Trust deals directly with suppliers and service providers to supply equipment and for life-changing treatments. Application to be made to the Trust by completing an application form. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Trust initially for advice about suitability of application.

- Minton Hollins
Shelton Old Road
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 7RY
t: 0845 300 1348
e: charity@caudwellchildren.com
w: www.caudwellchildren.com

Cerebra

You can apply for computers, holidays in the UK (up to £500), specialist equipment, i.e. car seats, buggies, tricycles, sensory toys and certain therapies within the mainland UK (contact for a list of therapies that can be considered for funding). You can apply for one grant in a calendar year. The Cerebra Grant Scheme is aimed at helping children, who have disabilities due to a brain related condition, injury or neurological disorder. The condition may be of a physical nature, a learning difficulty, or both. For children 16 and under.

- 2nd Floor, The Lyric Buildings
King Street
Carmarthen
SA31 1BP
t: 0800 328 1159
e: info@cerebra.org.uk
w: www.cerebra.org.uk

Children Today Charitable Trust

Provides grants of up to £1,000 to provide vital, life changing specialist equipment for children and young people, who have a disability and/or illness, up to the age of 25. You can apply for specialist trikes/bicycles, sensory and educational aids. Application forms are available from the correspondent.

- The Moorings
Rowton Bridge
Chester
CH3 7AE
t: 01244 335 622
e: info@childrentoday.org.uk

Elifar Foundation

Purchase of a wide range of specialised equipment, therapies and respite, which would otherwise be unavailable because of a lack of funds or because there is no statutory provision.

- The Treasurer
Elifar Foundation
22 Florentine Way
Waterlooville
Hants
PO7 8JU
e: info@elifarfoundation.org.uk
w: www.elifarfoundation.org.uk

12: Charitable Organisations

Family Action

Can provide grants for people in need usually towards fuel bills, clothing and household needs. Unable to help towards rent arrears, council tax, funeral expenses, fines or expenses already covered by statutory funds. Also provide an educational grants advisory service offering guidance and advice to enable students - or would-be students - to secure funding for post-16 education and training. Priority is given to people with special difficulties, including low-income groups, lone parents, people with disabilities and refugees.

- Grants Service
Family Action
501-505 Kingsland Road
London
E8 4AU
t: 020 7254 6251
(2pm-4pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday only)
w: family-action.org.uk

Hospital Saturday Fund Charitable Trust

Type of grant : one off small grants (£25-£250) towards medical care, medical equipment and appliances, dietary needs, disability aids and furniture, help in the home and hospital travel.

- 24 Upper Ground
London
SE1 9PD
t: 020 7928 6662
e: trust@hsf.eu.com

KidsOut

Helps disadvantaged and special needs children in the UK. These children can come from all manner of backgrounds including single parent families, ethnic minorities, and abusive environments, offer funds to help provide specially designed toys, play and special equipment - such as buggies - or financial assistance towards fun days out, holidays and respite breaks for both parents and children. Grants are available to individuals, families, schools and special groups that look after disadvantaged and special needs children.

- KidsOut
14 Church Square
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 1AE
t: 01525 385252
e: info@kidsout.org.uk
w: www.kidsout.org.uk

Lifeline 4 Kids

Type of grant : cash grants are not given. Specific items are purchased on behalf of individuals. Full spectrum of specialised equipment such as electric wheelchairs, mobility aids and varying items including specialised computers. One of the only UK charities prepared to help a special needs child from a low-income family with essential smaller items such as shoes, clothing, bedding and specialist toys.

- Lifeline 4 Kids
215 West End Lane
West Hampstead
London NW6 1XJ
t: 020 7794 1661
w: www.lifeline4kids.org

12: Charitable Organisations

Miss Doreen Stanford Charitable Trust

One-off and recurrent grants (£500-£1500) mainly for equipment related to illness or disability. No grants for holidays or items like washing machines, clothes or home repairs.

Eligibility : People who are deaf, blind or otherwise disabled can apply for grants. Children whose families are in financial need are also considered.

- Mrs G Borner (Secretary)
26 The Mead
Beckenham
Kent
BR3 5PE
t: 020 8650 3368

Newlife - Foundation for Disabled Children (previously known as BDF)

Can help buy specialist equipment, educational aids, replacement clothing or bedding, if the damage or excessive wear and tear is due to the child's condition, for families with a child/ren who have some form of inborn condition. The service exists for those who need help, but who would otherwise face a lengthy wait. Newlife also publish various fact sheets and advice leaflets free of charge.

A new service is offered from Newlife - Newlife Nurses can be contacted via Live Chat on line, phone or email – they offer information, support and direction from who to contact locally or nationally, what a condition and the long medical words mean, how to cope with a situation, what questions to ask at appointments, which professionals do what, what are the possibilities for support, what to do next or who should we ask to see. They can also explain the benefit systems and help you to understand your rights.

Newlife Nurses are also the main route to getting advice regarding the equipment grant services.

Newlife Nurses can be contacted in various ways

- Web on line "Nurse" Chat Icon at the top of each webpage
t: 0800 902 0095 (freephone)
(Mon to Fri, 9.30am-5.00pm)
- Newlife Foundation for Disabled Children
Newlife Centre
Hemlock Way
Cannock
Staffordshire
WS11 7GF
t: 01543 462 777
w: www.newlifecharity.co.uk

REACT

(Rapid effective assistance for children with a potential terminal illness)

One-off grants for a variety of needs, e.g. washing machines, bills, specialist toys, carpets, wheelchairs and sensory equipment. No grants for holidays abroad or house alterations.

- Ms Vicky Andreas
React
St Lukes House
270 Sandycombe Road
Kew, Richmond
Surrey
TW9 3NP
t: 020 8940 2575
w: www.reactcharity.org

R L Glasspool Charity Trust

Can provide small one off grants to people in need, on a low income, towards household items and equipment/ appliances and clothing.

- R L Glasspool Charity
182 Hoe Street
London
E17 4QH
t: 020 8520 4354
w: www.glasspool.org.uk

12: Charitable Organisations

The Buttle Trust

Provides one-off grants towards clothes, bedding, essential furniture and household equipment for children/young people under 21 and who are either looked after by adoptive parents, cared for by family members or friends, living with single parents, estranged or orphaned and living independently. The Trust can not support children who are supported by two caring parents or being looked after by a local authority, or who have been in the UK for less than two years and have either full refugee status or exceptional leave to remain. Not available for those living outside the UK. Applications must be in writing through a statutory agency or voluntary organisation that is capable of assessing the needs of the child and can also administer a grant on behalf of the Trust.

- The Director
The Buttle Trust, Audley House
13 Palace Street
London
SW1E 5HX
t: 020 7828 7311
e: applications@buttletrust.org

The League of the Helping Hand

Provides one-off grants to purchase essential items such as cookers, washing machines, specialist furniture, shoes and clothing, bedding, cots, etc. for people who have a learning or a physical disability, or both and are in financial need. Application must be made on a form available from the correspondent, to be submitted through a social worker, or other health care professionals. A SAE must be included.

- The Secretary
League of the Helping Hand
PO Box 342
Burgess Hill
RH15 5AQ
t: 01444 236099
e: secretary@lhh.org.uk
w: www.lhh.org.uk

The Percy Bilton Charity

Can provide one off small grants for essential household items and clothing only, to elderly and disabled people including children and adults. (Applications must be made in writing by local social workers, occupational therapists, CPN's or health visitors on a person's behalf). Grants not considered for computer equipment.

- The Percy Bilton Charity
Bilton House
7 Culmington Road
Ealing
London W13 9NB
t: 020 8579 2829
w: www.percybiltoncharity.org.uk

12: Charitable Organisations

The Roald Dahl Foundation

Provides one-off grants of up to £500 each towards household appliances, utility bills, clothing, beds and bedding, medical alert jewellery, travel and subsistence payments while children are in hospital. Specialised equipment, e.g. sensory toys, car seats, wheelchairs, motability vehicles, vehicle tax and insurance and short break care. Helps children and young people aged 25 and under who have a neurological or haematological condition and are from a low income family (in receipt of income support, working families' tax credit or housing benefit). Families not on benefits, but on a low income or whose income has been interrupted by the child's illness may also be considered. Applications must be submitted by a health care professional or a social worker who is willing to see the application through to completion, supplying and confirming the information contained. Applicants need to provide details of income and expenditure, if no state benefits are being claimed.

- Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity
81a High Street
Gt. Missenden
Bucks
HP16 0AL
t: 01494 890465
e: enquiries@roalddahlcharity.org
w: www.roalddahlcharity.org

Variety Club

Helps sick, disabled and disadvantaged children and young people, up to and including the age of 18 years, who reside in the UK.

- Variety House
93 Bayham Street
London
NW1 0AG
t: 020 7428 8100
e: info@variety.org.uk
w: www.variety.org.uk

Whizz Kidz

Provides mobility equipment for children including trikes, powered wheelchairs, etc for children and young people aged 18 years and under with disabilities.

- 4th Floor
Portland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5BH
t: 020 7233 6600
e: info@whizz-kidz.org.uk
w: www.whizz-kidz.org.uk

12: Charitable Organisations

Wish Granting Organisations

Dreams Come True Charity

Fulfils wishes for children who are seriously and terminally ill, aged between 2-21 years. Apply by calling freephone 0800 018 6013, writing or sending your details via email form on the website.

- Exchange House
33 Station Road
Liphook
Hampshire
GU30 7DW
t: 01428 726330 or 0800 018 6013
e: info@dreamscometrue.uk.com
w: www.dreamscometrue.uk.com

Follow Your Dreams

Raises awareness and sponsors youngsters with Down's Syndrome and other learning disabilities, into sports, music, drama or the arts.

- 36a Edwards House
Talbot Road
Talbot Green
Pontyclun
S Wales
CF72 8AF
t: 01443 230184
e: admin@followyourdreams.org.uk
w: www.followyourdreams.org.uk

Make a Wish Foundation UK

Grants the wishes of children aged 3-18 years living with life-threatening/limiting illnesses. Anyone who knows a child can apply by writing to Head Office or visiting the website.

- 329-331 London Road
Camberley
GU15 3HQ
t: 01276 405060
e: info@make-a-wish.org.uk
w: www.make-a-wish.org.uk

Rays of Sunshine Children's Charity

Aims to make the wishes come true of terminally and seriously ill children (between the ages of 3 and 18). Also buys vitally needed equipment for those children and supporting hospitals, hospices and specialist schools that care for those children. Contact the organisation for more information.

- Jane Sharpe (CEO)
No 1. Olympic Way
Wembley
Middlesex
HA9 0NP
t: 020 8782 1171
e: office@raysofsunshine.org.uk
w: www.raysofsunshine.org.uk

12: Charitable Organisations

Starlight Children's Foundation

Grants wishes to serious or terminally ill children (e.g. leukaemia, HIV/Aids, brain tumours, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, severe asthma or epilepsy, sickle cell anaemia, most forms of cerebral palsy) aged between 4-18 years. Anyone can refer a child to Starlight by printing off an application form, from the website, or contact organisation for further details.

- Starlight Children's Foundation
Macmillan House
Paddington Station
London
W2 1HD
t: 020 7262 2881
w: www.starlight.org.uk

When You Wish Upon A Star

Fulfils the wishes of children with life threatening and terminal illnesses aged between 2-16 years. Contact the charity for further details.

- Futurist House
Valley Road
Basford
Nottingham
NG5 1JE
t: 0115 979 1720
e: nottingham@whenyouwishuponastar.org.uk
w: www.whenyouwishuponastar.org.uk

13: National Early Support Downloadable Resources

Early Support's resources help to bring service providers together with parent carers, children and young people on the basis of shared information. They ensure parent carers, children and young people remain at the centre of a holistic and integrated support process.

The information resources are based on what families and young people have said would be most useful for them. They offer a source of reliable and readable information. They cover a range of different conditions, disabilities and difficulties, including autistic spectrum disorder, speech, language and communication, visual impairment, sleep, neurological disorders, multi-sensory impairment, rare conditions and no diagnosis. They also provide general information on childcare, people you may meet and other useful areas of knowledge:-

1. Information about useful contacts and organisations
2. Information about Neurological Disorders Part 1
3. Information about Neurological Disorders Part 2
4. Information about Neurological Disorders Part 3
3. Useful organisations and website
5. Information about living without diagnosis
6. Information about multi-sensory impairment
7. Information about behaviour
8. General information
9. Information about childcare
10. Information about autism spectrum disorders
11. If your child has a rare condition
12. People you may meet
13. Sensory impairment
14. Speech Language and communication needs

15. Sleep
16. Visual Impairment (Part 1)
17. Visual Impairment (Part 2)
18. Visual Impairment (Part 3)
19. Visual Impairment (Part 4)

All the resources are available to download from the National Children's Bureau website

- w: www.ncb.org.uk
t: 020 7843 6000

Misunderstood

Misunderstood explains what speech, language and communication needs are and includes advice and guidance on how to support communication development. It includes information for parents to give them guidance on what to do if they suspect their child may have a communication difficulty.

This booklet is aimed at parents and those who work with children and young people to give an introduction to the subject.

This resource is available to download or order:

- w: www.ncb.org.uk

Specific Language Impairment (SLI) Handbook

The SLI Handbook is a book written by I CAN and Afasic that explains what a specific language impairment (SLI) is. It gives advice and support and shows where to go for further information.

To order a free copy email:

- e: enquiries@thecomunicationtrust.org.uk
with your postal details.

Notes



Notes

Specialist Support and Disability Services

The Phoenix Children's Resource Centre

40 Masons Hill, Bromley BR2 9JG

Tel: 020 8315 4748

Fax: 020 8466 8855

e-mail: espp.general@phoenixsch.org.uk

www.bromley.gov.uk



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www.bromley.gov.uk



Early Support

for children, young people and families