

# Do you have a child with additional needs?



**Family Information Service**  
**01905 790 560**

# Do you have a child with additional needs?

**All parents should be able to access childcare in their local community that meets their child's individual needs. Children with additional needs should, wherever appropriate, be included within mainstream early years and childcare provision.**

## The Disability Discrimination Act

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) applies to all early years and childcare providers. They must comply with two key duties set by the DDA.

These are:

- Not to treat a child with a disability 'less favourably'
- To make 'reasonable adjustments' for children with disabilities.

## Choosing childcare

When choosing childcare you will want to know that your child is safe and happy and that the childcare provision is meeting their needs. You may want to visit more than one childcare provider so that you can compare them. It is also advisable to talk to staff within the setting or the childminder about your child's individual needs.

All funded early years childcare providers have a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) who is responsible for ensuring that the childcare provision is meeting the needs of those children with additional requirements. The SENCo will work with parents to agree on the involvement of other professionals such as speech and language therapists or those who can advise on behaviour or aspects of the curriculum.

Childminders, out of school clubs and holiday playschemes do not usually have a SENCo, however there will be someone you can talk to about your child. If you think it is important, arrange a meeting with the childminder, the manager or supervisor so that you can talk things through in detail.

## Things to look for and questions to ask

- Do my child and I feel welcome?
- Have the staff or childminder had experience of working with children with similar needs to my child or have they had specialist training?
- Does the childcare provider include all children in a positive way?
- Do they show positive attitudes towards disability, gender and cultural differences?
- How will my child's day be structured? Will the setting follow routines started at home?
- How will they monitor my child's progress? How will I be told about this?
- Is there a wide range of equipment suitable to my child's age and ability?

**Take your child to as many providers as you choose, to see how he or she reacts. Spend as long as you need and visit a second time and ask further questions if necessary.**

## Support for childcare providers

The Early Years and Childcare Service may be able to help your childcare provider through:

- Support for specialist equipment
- Support to increase staff to child ratios
- Additional training
- Visits from specialists who can give advice on particular issues.

**It is important that you are confident about the childcare you are using for your child. Find out as much as you can and then make your choice based on your observations and the information you have received.**

## SCROLL

SCROLL is a voluntary register of children in Worcestershire with additional needs. By joining the register, you will receive a newsletter every three or four months which will give you helpful and up to date information about services and events for children with additional needs. If you would like to join the SCROLL register, please call the Family Information Service on 01905 790560 for a registration form.

## Family Information Service

Worcestershire's Family Information Service (FIS) can provide details of childcare and leisure activities in your area and can offer guidance and support in finding suitable childcare for your child.

If your child has additional needs and you have tried to find childcare but have been unsuccessful, please call us on 01905 790560 for further support.

The Family Information Service can also provide you with a list of sitters who have experience of looking after children with additional needs.



# Useful contacts for parents and carers

**Family Information Service Tel: 01905 790560**

Impartial information for families with children aged 0 to 19 years.

**Contact a Family Tel: 0121 4154624**

A charity which helps families who care for children with any additional need.

**D.I.A.L. (North Worcestershire) Tel: 0800 9707202**

Disability Advice Line.

**D.I.A.L. (South Worcestershire) Tel: 01905 27790**

Disability Advice Line.

**Parent Partnership Service Tel: 01905 727940**

Support for parents and carers, including a befrienders service.

**Portage (Wyre Forest) Tel: 01562 757671**

Support families with children under five with significant developmental delays.

**Portage (Worcester) Tel: 01905 681868**

**Portage (Redditch and Bromsgrove) Tel: 01527 598071**

**Worcestershire Association of Carers Tel: 01905 26500**

**Worcestershire Carers Unit Tel: 0800 3892896**



**You can contact the Family Information Service in the following ways:**

**By telephone:**

01905 790 560 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Answer machine at all other times)

**By fax:**

01905 790 551

**By post:**

Family Information Service,  
3 De Salis Court, De Salis Drive, Hampton Lovett, Droitwich,  
Worcestershire, WR9 0QE

**By email:**

familyinfo@worcestershire.gov.uk

**Online:**

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyinfo



This publication can be made available in other languages and alternative formats (including large print, audio tape, computer disc and Braille) on request from the Marketing Team on telephone number 01905 765915 or by emailing [cmetcalf@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:cmetcalf@worcestershire.gov.uk)

To the best of our knowledge all information is correct at time of printing. April 2009

Find out more online:  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyinfo](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyinfo)