

Play and Aiming High for Disabled Children



What is Aiming High for Disabled Children?



- Delivery of better services for disabled children
- £370 million nationally 2008-2011 for short breaks
 - £280 million revenue
 - £90million capital
- Some key objectives of AH:
 - Transforming and expanding short breaks
 - Parent forums

Short Breaks



- Positive benefits for both children and carers
- Children have the opportunity to have enjoyable experiences and socialise with others
- Carers and siblings have the opportunity to relax, do other tasks and spend time with family and friends.
- E.g. sitting services, befriending services, youth clubs, play schemes, the use of outreach/sessional workers to stay with the child or take them out and overnight stays with carers or in care homes
- A range of short break services are needed to reflect the different ages, requirements and unique nature of each child.



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Linking up



- Play opportunities should be part of a short break strategy, if they are not questions should be asked!
- Parent forums- engaging, consulting and publicity
- What kind of services could provide support to disabled children as well as use the new play areas?
- 'Local partners are expected to work with staff and volunteers in mainstream and universal settings to build their capacity to accommodate disabled children in receipt of short break provision'
 - Joint training opportunities?
- Adventure Playgrounds must join with Aiming High funding
 - Huge potential for providing support and resources to all children in an inclusive setting
- Parent forum representation on play partnership?

Aiming High funding should not be spent on:



- making something accessible which should already be accessible.
- specialist pieces of equipment or toilets- without it being part of a short break package:
“providing new equipment, adaptations, and additional facilities local partners will need to consider how to use the new capital funding within their wider strategic planning for short break services”

Next steps



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- Play Strategy updates must include reference to how disabled children will be provided with opportunities to play, including links to short breaks.
- Aiming High and Play meeting attendance
- What play services already exist and how could these be expanded to provide short breaks for disabled children in inclusive play environments?

Support from KIDS



Briefings:

- **'Aiming Higher for Inclusive Play'**- available from KIDS website
- **'Making the Links'**- available from KIDS website

- Joint Pathfinder Group
- Case Studies
- List of all Aiming High leads nationally
- Links with Together for Disabled Children (organisation supporting the Aiming High programme)

Contact



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