



Giving
disabled children
a brighter future

KIDS in COVID

Covid-19 has changed the way we live. Disabled children, young people and their families have faced new and sometimes seemingly impossible challenges.

Many families face increased worries that their child's medical condition may make them more vulnerable to significant impact from Covid-19; many were self-isolating for months.

KIDS has stayed open throughout.

Our expert staff continue to support, advise and make a positive difference to thousands of families as we all continue to live with the effects of this pandemic.



On the 23rd March 2020 we entered into national lockdown. KIDS moved swiftly to evaluate how we could continue to deliver support, when our help was needed more than ever. KIDS reached out across our communities forging new partnerships and new ways of working that helped families at crisis point.

Our play and leisure services across the country adapted their delivery. In London, for example, our playworkers took their skills into a local special school.



6,000

children young people and families supported



978

virtual support workshops and training sessions held



Over 6,000

hours of support delivered online



10,800

telephone calls to our families



1207

video calls to deliver direct help

We were able to keep face to face services running safely:



85

young children supported through our nurseries



37

families continued to receive domiciliary care



192

hours of residential respite care through KIDS Russell House



1,327

short breaks delivered through both face to face and virtual support

We adapted our plans, listened to our families, and were able to deliver quality help online and by phone



82

children received home learning support which included story time and song time sessions



43

young people had virtual group sessions



1,070

families received our parenting support, from key-worker sessions through to support with sleep training



773

families were able to access our award-winning mediation service



1,740

phone calls to families supported via our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Services (SENDIASS)



2,350

activity packs were delivered to our families' homes. These ranged from arts, crafts and baking through to sensory activities



“The support we have had from the KIDS team has been exceptional. The stories and songs via video are thoroughly enjoyed by our little one. My son is so excited to see them every time and a weekly call to the grown-ups has also helped me stay sane. Thank you.”

“During the pandemic, KIDS has been my rock. They have allowed my son to still go to the nursery and when not in, they have provided us with family activities to ensure he is constantly making progress.”

What young people, parents and partners say:

“KIDS has helped to keep me going through Skype video calls, one to one phone calls and regular posts on Facebook. It has helped me to feel connected and involved with my youth participation group.”

“KIDS has been an invaluable resource to us this year especially during this pandemic. By selflessly remaining open throughout, KIDS has enabled me as a key worker to continue to work, which for us as a family has been financially essential as my partner who is self-employed was unable to work, halving our income.”

“Financially, the last three months have been some of the toughest we have ever had as a family. There are six of us in the family and having children with disabilities has had a big effect on us as a family for a long time. The support from KIDS Hayward Adventure Playground and the Felix Project has been exactly the help we needed in exactly the right way.”

“When many organisations simply closed their doors for the duration of the lockdown KIDS were a phone call away to the parents and were flexible and agile in the delivery of their service and continued to do what they do best; provide support to some of the most vulnerable children and young people in Waltham Forest and provide the support at very short notice when carers had to isolate, and they continue to offer this support beyond the lockdown and into the school holidays. I cannot thank them enough for their support.”

Tony Connole, Short Break Coordinator,
London Borough of Waltham Forest.



Thank you to those who made this possible

Our local authority partners worked with us and by taking a flexible and collaborative approach allowed us to ensure the most vulnerable families did not go without support.

Coronavirus has had a serious impact on charity fundraising and KIDS has experienced losses, especially from events. We continued to seek funding to ensure that families could access support and we appreciate every single donation.

We focused on applying to national and regional emergency funds, including participating in the Big Give and we embraced new opportunities for virtual events, supporting the 2.6 Challenge and devising our own Make your Miles Matter campaign as we continue to innovate in fundraising. We need this focus as we anticipate an overall 25% reduction on voluntary income this year.

Staying connected to our families and our supporters remains vital. Our newsletter reached almost 1000 people every month and we achieved 77,000 post reach on Facebook and 100,000 Twitter impressions.

“Thank you so much for all you have done for my family. I can see that KIDS care about us and that you understand what we are going through.”



Keep in touch with us:

 www.kids.org.uk

 020 7359 3635

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All data covers period between March – June 2020