

## 9. Cerebral Palsy

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is a general term for a wide range of cerebral (brain) disorders. These disorders affect how people control movement of different parts of the body – arms, legs and facial muscles. CP affects different people in different ways. Pupils with CP may find it difficult, or be unable, to:

- walk
- talk clearly
- move their head or facial muscles
- see or hear as well as other children

Sometimes the muscles affected are very floppy or, more usually, very tight and tense.

Sometimes CP can also result in intellectual impairment, but more often children with CP tend to be physically rather than intellectually disabled.



### What can you do in your role as a teacher to support children with Cerebral Palsy?

- Talk to the child about what they find difficult in school.
- Talk to parents about how they support their child.
- Look at the physical access around the school. Can the child access the toilets? Eating areas? Do they need a ramp?
- Ask the class for a volunteer to look after the child with CP.
- Adapt pencils and other tools to help them use them more easily.

See also:

10. Visual impairment

11. Hearing impairment

## Reference:

Adapted from: UNESCO (2001) *Understanding and Responding to Children's Needs in Inclusive Classrooms*, France: UNESCO

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001243/124394e.pdf>

## Acknowledgements

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Photo: Hannah Corps © Humanity & Inclusion

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