

contact a family
for families with disabled children

The Lewisham
Children with Disabilities
Play Inclusion Project
(P.I.P.)



The P.I.P project is funded by
the Lewisham Children's Fund



WHAT IS PLAY?

All children need to play and have the right to play. All children should have equal access to play opportunities and services – Children's Play Council, 1998.

Play is widely recognised as being central to children's health and well being, as well as their development and education.

For young children, skills and knowledge are achieved through play, for young people leisure and sporting activities offer friendships, fun and freedom. Greater access to play and leisure services, particularly opportunities for inclusive play, is of prime importance in helping children live as full a life as possible.

At Lewisham Contact a Family, we have set up a new project called the Lewisham Children with Disabilities Play Inclusion Project, or to keep it simple – P.I.P! Our aim is to develop inclusive play in the borough and enable



families with disabled and special needs children to access and enjoy the play and leisure services that are available to all children.

In conjunction with Lewisham Play Inclusion Partnership and funded by the Lewisham Children's Fund, P.I.P is working with families and play services, such as after school clubs, adventure playgrounds, and holiday play schemes across the statutory, voluntary and private sectors.

WHY INCLUSIVE PLAY?

The importance of play and leisure activities and the benefits that are gained cannot be over emphasised and yet for many disabled children these opportunities do not exist.

- ✿ Inclusion means... including EVERYBODY!
- ✿ Inclusion means... that each child is given the opportunities to develop their skills, interests and abilities.
- ✿ Inclusion means... that children are supported in reaching their full potential.



- ✿ Inclusion does not always mean integration, but ensuring that children receive the best possible support in specialist and mainstream services.

ABOUT THE P.I.P. PROJECT

P.I.P aims to help disabled children and their families overcome the barriers of inclusive play by:-

- ✿ Promoting inclusive play and empowering children with disabilities in Lewisham.
- ✿ Improving access to play and leisure services for children and their families.
- ✿ Supporting services to be more accessible through training, advice, small grants and monitoring.
- ✿ Facilitating the development of an inclusive play policy for Lewisham.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

We feel that every child in the borough from 0-19 years should have the opportunity to become more involved in play and leisure services. We will be working alongside parents and carers to look at their children's specific needs and issues affecting the whole family.

Our service will provide information on play and leisure facilities in Lewisham as well as liaising with services to ensure children have access and support.

We will also be holding regular discussion groups which we hope will encourage parents and carers to offer suggestions and comments on play services in Lewisham.

These groups will also be a chance for parents and carers to get information from guest speakers and receive training around inclusive play. In addition we will be sending out quarterly newsletters.

INFORMATION FOR SERVICES

We are offering free training and advice on inclusive play to services across the borough that provides specialist or mainstream activities for children.

We are also carrying out comprehensive assessments on services and compiling a directory on play and leisure services in Lewisham.

We are working in conjunction with Early Years, Youth and Sports Development services as well as voluntary and private organisations to design and implement an inclusive play policy and strategy for Lewisham.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about the P.I.P. project or Contact a Family, you can contact us by filling in the details below;

Parent/Carers

Name:

Address:

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Telephone Number:

Child/Children's

name/s

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Send to:

The Play Inclusion Project
Contact a Family Lewisham
1 For man House
Friendsbury Road
London
SE4 2LB

Or you can call Fiona Thompson, P.I.P.
Development Officer or Aly
Trenholme, Family Outreach Worker
on 020 7635 6333.

or email: piplewisham@cafamily.org.uk

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