



Cerebral Palsy (CP)

Cerebral palsy is a condition that affects muscle control and movement. It is usually caused by an injury to the brain before, during or after birth. Children with the condition have difficulties in controlling muscles and movements as they grow and develop. CP itself is not progressive; the injury to the brain does not change. However, the effects may change over time for better or worse. No two people with cerebral palsy are affected in the same way. Some have it so mildly that it is barely noticeable. Others may be profoundly affected and require help with many or all aspects of daily life.

In the UK, cerebral palsy affects about one in every 400 children. Cerebral palsy can affect people from all social backgrounds and ethnic groups.

Associated Conditions

Some people with cerebral palsy may have associated conditions; while others may not. These can include:

- Learning difficulty (although children with cerebral palsy cover the same range of intelligence as other children)
- Epilepsy (up to a third of children with cerebral palsy)
- Hearing impairment (only 8% of children)
- Sleeping difficulties
- Communication difficulties
- Eating difficulties
- Difficulties with personal hygiene
- Behaviour issues (one in four children with cerebral palsy)
- Delayed growth
- Curved spine
- Fatigue (people with Cerebral Palsy use up to three times the energy required for walking than able-bodied people)
- Muscle weakness
- Arthritis
- Repetitive strain injury

(Information taken from <http://www.scope.org.uk/>)

Pupils with Cerebral Palsy may need support with:

- Access around the school environment
- Accessing the curriculum
- Communication support
- Social interaction



- Personal care including eating and drinking
- Medication
- Organization
- Keeping up with school and homework
- ICT
- Independence skills

Further information:

<http://www.scope.org.uk/>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Cerebral-palsy/Pages/Introduction.aspx>