Better health, better lives

Easy read version of:
The European Declaration on Children and Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families
About this book

This book is about a declaration or list of promises from governments.

This Declaration makes 10 promises about the rights of children and young people with intellectual disabilities.

**Intellectual disability** means people find it harder to learn and remember things.

In some countries this is called **learning disability**.

**Rights** are things that should happen for everyone.
Children and young people with intellectual disabilities have the same rights as every other child.

They have a right to:

- good physical health

- good mental health

- live with a loving family
• friends

• education

• learn how to do a job

• cared for properly.
Some things are getting better.

More work is needed because:

- families need help to keep their child living at home
- many children with a disability come from poor families and this can mean they have poor health
- some children and their families are treated worse than other people because of their disability.
Governments in Europe have signed the declaration.

A declaration is a list of promises.

A Government is a group of people who look after a country. Governments make rules for everyone who lives there.

The next pages say what Governments have promised to do.
Promise 1. Keep all children and young people safe

- not afraid
- not bullied
- not hurt.
Promise 2. Support children to grow up with families

- with their own parents whenever possible
- in loving homes
- with people who understand them
- with their brothers and sisters.
Promise 3. No child should live in an institution

An *institution* is a place where children do not live with their families.

- children should live with a loving family
- children should live in ordinary houses
- children should live in the community.
Promise 4.
Find out what each individual child needs

- find out what children with intellectual disabilities need
- every child is different and special
- every child has different needs
- every child’s needs will change as they grow.
Promise 5.
Children and young people with intellectual disabilities need good healthcare

- they have the same health needs as all children

- sometimes they need extra help.
Promise 6.
Make sure families have help to care for children with an intellectual disability

- give extra help and services to families so they can better care for their child

- give information about intellectual disability to families

- families need help as soon as they know their baby has an intellectual disability
Promise 7.
Involve children and young people and their families in making choices

Help children to say what they think about:

- their lives
- places where they live
- people they live with
- services they use.
Promise 8.
Train staff

Make sure that staff:

- understand what **all** children need
- understand what children with an intellectual disability need
- want to do the job well
- are paid well
- know that all children have the same rights.
Promise 9.
Make sure services for children with an intellectual disability and their families are good

- find out if children and young people with an intellectual disability are getting the help they need
- find out if all families are getting the help they need
- make sure all children are happy and healthy.
Promise 10.
Pay money to make sure every child gets good health care

- pay for good services for all children

- spend more money for children with an intellectual disability who need more help.
Governments who sign the declaration must:

- write down how they will help children and young people and their families
- make sure the information is easy to understand
- have rules to say what help children and young people and their families must have
- get everyone to work together to help children
- make sure things are getting better.
Everyone can help

They can:

- listen to children and young people and their families
- help them to say what they want and need
- give good services
- change the way that people think about children and young people with an intellectual disability.

In 2015 the World Health Organization will find out if things are getting better.
These promises are supported by:

- children and adults with an intellectual disability
- families
- people who provide services
- disabled peoples organisations
- the World Health Organization. All countries working together to make sure healthcare is good
- UNICEF. All countries working together to make sure children are happy, healthy and safe.
The European Declaration was written by the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe.

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