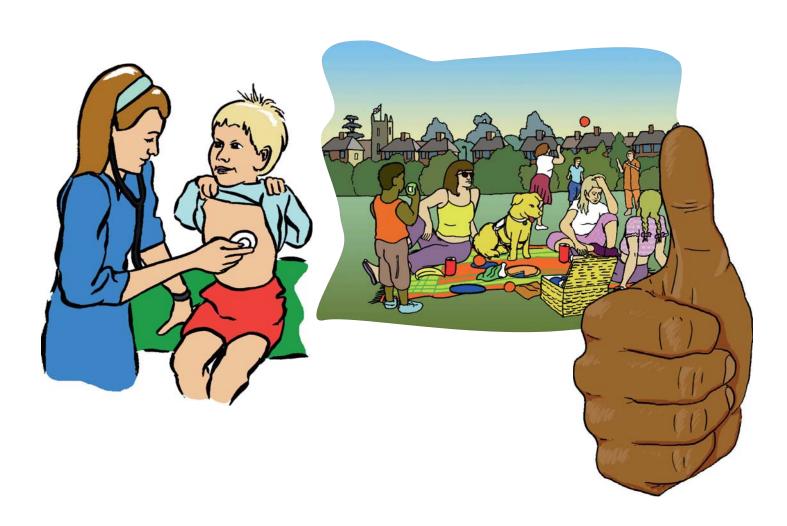




Better health, better lives

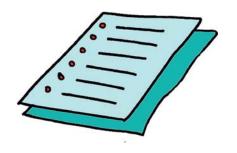




Easy read version of:

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:

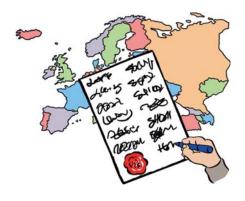
 families need help to keep their child living at home



 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



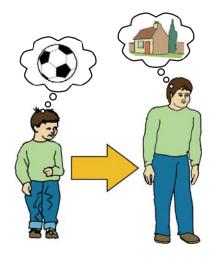
• find out what children with intellectual disabilities need



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

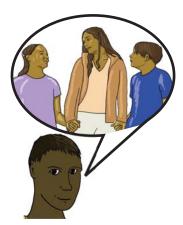


Help children to say what they think about:

• 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

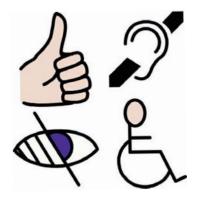




 listen to children and young people and their families



 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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The Making it Easier Group checked this document.



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Better health, better lives

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