



Play: more opportunities for disabled children and young people

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, or UNCRC, is a list of the rights that all children and young people have. Nearly all the countries in the world have signed up to the UNCRC.



Article 31 of the UNCRC says
that **ALL** children and young
people have a right to
play and relax





The Children's Commissioner asks Wales' children and young people what they think he and his team should work on.

You said that the Children's Commissioner for Wales should do something to make sure that disabled children and young people have the same chances to play as everyone else.

What did we do?

- Met with disabled children and young people and listened to their views
- Looked carefully at the plans for play in every part of Wales to see what they said
- Wrote a report and planned what to do next.

What did we find out?

- Disabled children and young people enjoy playing and do lots of different things
- Lots of the chances they have to play are organised and they have an adult with them — but they don't always want or need this
- There isn't enough information around about play if you are disabled
- Some of the local play plans didn't mention disabled children and young people at all, and many didn't say what they did to make it easier for them to enjoy their right to play.



Call us on

Freephone 0808 801 1000

Text us on

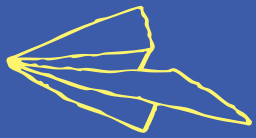
Free text 80800

(start the message with COM)

The freephone service is open weekdays between 9-1 and 2-5



www.childcomwales.org.uk



What are the next steps towards making things better?

- Publish our report
- Write to every local authority to tell them what we thought of their play plans
- Meet with and speak to people who can make a difference so that things get better
- Remind people that if they want to know what really matters to disabled children and young people they need to meet them, listen to what they say and take them seriously.

We think that to make sure that disabled children and young people get to enjoy their right to play, play plans need to:

- Mention disabled children and young people so that everyone knows that they haven't been forgotten!
- Involve disabled children and young people in planning and designing play areas and facilities
- Recognise that disabled children like to do lots of different things and that they don't just want special facilities, equipment or organised play — they want choice
- Make it clear that local authorities have considered disabled children and young people when writing their plans and that they are trying to make sure that **all** children will get their rights.



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