



Office of the Assistant National Director
Children's Disability Services
Access and Inclusion - Health Service Executive
Block D, Parkgate Business Centre
Parkgate St
Dublin D08 YFF1
Tel: 01-6352928
Email: children.disability@hse.ie

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Executive Officers

Cc: Dr Aoife O'Donohue, Heads of Service Disabilities, Heads of Service Primary Care, Heads of Service Mental Health

From: Ann Bourke, Service Improvement Lead, National Children's Disability Services Team

Re: **National Online Resources Hub for children and young people with disabilities and their families**

Date: November 20th 2025

We are delighted to share an important update on the HSE's new information service for children and young people with disabilities and their families.

As part of the **Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023–2026 Disability Services for Children and Young People**, the HSE is creating this new information service on <https://www2.hse.ie/babies-children/disabilities/> to provide evidence informed, accessible information and resources for children and young people with disabilities and their families.

Families have told us that they find it hard to find useful information they can trust. Staff have asked for a national resources hub which they can signpost children and young people with disabilities and families to.

The HSE has initially focused on bringing together information and resources produced by our CDNT health care professionals in Enable Ireland, St. Michael's House, and the former CHO7 area into one place on HSE.ie.

The HSE want to get feedback from families and staff early on in the project, so we are making the first version available with 40+ resources on the following topics.

- **Communication** – Tips to support speech, language, and interaction
- **Emotion & Sensory Regulation** – Calming strategies and coping tools
- **Life Skills** – Toilet training, handwriting, and independence skills
- **Play** – Sensory play and activity ideas
- **School** – Preparing for pre-school and building confidence

The team is already working to gather, quality assure and add more information and resources from across the health service and other recognised and trusted sources over the coming months while they are gathering feedback from families and staff. Once the first phase of the project has been completed in August 2026, they will start work on developing new resources for and with children, young people and their families and CDNT staff.



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Feedback can be provided in several ways. There will be a feedback form at the bottom of each page on the website. The team will also be running focus groups with staff and families early in 2026.

We encourage staff and families to visit <https://www2.hse.ie/babies-children/disabilities/> and provide their feedback to help us develop and improve this new service for families and children.

Signed: *Ann Bourke*

Head of Service / Service Improvement Lead
Children's Disability Services
HSE Access and Integration