

Limited Mobility and Wheelchair Users

Condition:

Children with limited mobility or who are wheelchair users can and will have a wide range of reasons for this. They may have been born with a medical condition, had a serious accident or a sudden illness.

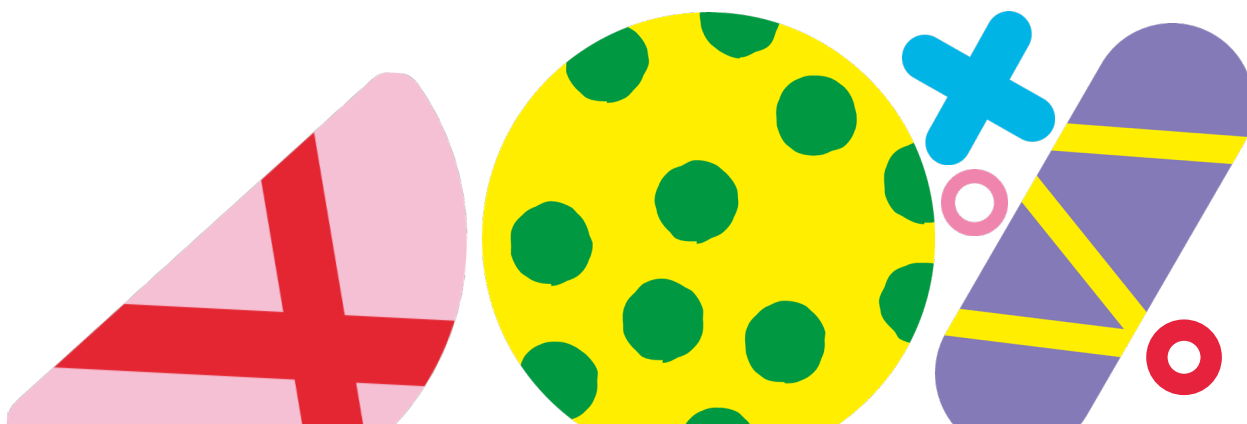
Whatever the reason for their limited mobility or wheelchair use, there are ways in which your group can be more sympathetic to their additional needs.

Problem Areas:

- Arriving at the building.
- Getting into the building.
- Access throughout the building.
- Use of toilet facilities.
- Being treated differently because of their limited mobility/wheelchair use.

Support strategies for your Group:

- Provide marked out parking spaces for parents with children with limited mobility or who are wheelchair users to use. Make sure these are as close as possible to the entrance to the building.
- In the absence of a car park, try to reserve a 'drop off' point near the entrance.
- All internal and external areas of the building should be leveled and have ramped access points. Some children with limited mobility find ramps difficult to negotiate so this should not be the only means of entry.
- All ramps and steps should have a handrail.
- If you have more than one child who is a wheelchair user, don't put them all together as this highlights their disability. In the same way, don't position them in an aisle or near an emergency exit for safety reasons.
- Screens may become difficult for children who are wheelchair users to see when everyone else is standing, so provide copies of songs or presentations for those who remain seated to use.





- Wheelchair accessible toilets should be provided, and these should never be used for storage.
- When talking to a wheelchair user, sit next to them so that you can gain eye contact with them more easily.
- A wheelchair is part of the users personal space – don't move it without asking and don't lean on it!
- If your building and strategy includes all of the above, please display the International Symbol of Access (ISA) at the entrance to your building and on any literature to show that you provide suitable facilities for those with limited mobility.



'Invited to Belong' has been developed in partnership between Urban Saints and Youthscape.



Youthscape

www.urbansaints.org/invitedtobelong