



The mission of the Special Needs Resource and Training Company is to improve the knowledge, skills and abilities of professionals who serve, educate, train and employ individuals with developmental disabilities

What is Cerebral Palsy?

Cerebral Palsy describes a group of permanent disorders of the development of movement and posture. The motor disorders of cerebral palsy are often accompanied by disturbances of sensation, perception, cognition, communication and behavior, epilepsy, and by secondary musculoskeletal problems.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cerebral palsy is the most common motor disability in childhood caused by damage to the developing brain that affects a person's ability to control his or her muscles.

Facts

- CDC estimates that about 1 in 323 children are diagnosed with cerebral palsy annual.
- Is a group of neurological disorders that affects body movement and muscle coordination.
- Is caused by damage to the brain which controls movement and balance
- Affects the motor area of the brain that directs muscle movement.
- The symptoms of cerebral palsy differ in type and severity in each person.
- Is the leading cause of childhood disabilities.



Prevalence

- Cerebral Palsy was more common among boys than among girls
- About 1 in 323 children have been identified with cerebral palsy
- Cerebral palsy was more common among African American children than white children.
- Hispanic and white children were about equally likely to have cerebral palsy
- 77% of the children identified with cerebral palsy spastic.

- 58.2% of the children identified with cerebral palsy could walk independently
- Many of the children with cerebral also had at least one co-occurring condition.
- 41% had co-occurring epilepsy and 6.9% had co-occurring autism.

What are the signs and symptoms Cerebral Palsy?

- Stiff muscles and exaggerated reflexes (spasticity)
- Stiff muscles with normal reflexes (rigidity)
- Lack of muscle coordination (ataxia)
- Tremors or involuntary movements
- Delays in reaching motor skills milestones
- Excessive drooling or problems with swallowing
- Delays in speech development or difficulty speaking
- Seizures.

What Causes Cerebral Palsy?

- About 10 to 20 percent of children who have cerebral palsy acquired it after birth
- Infections during pregnancy
- Jaundice in the infant
- Rh incompatibility
- Severe oxygen shortage in the brain
- Trauma or injury
- Stroke

Types of Cerebral Palsy

Athetoid- A type of cerebral palsy in which affected muscles move involuntarily.

Ataxic- A type of cerebral palsy affecting balance and coordination.

Spastic- A type of cerebral palsy causing stiff and severely cramped muscles.

Classifications

Hemiplegia- The inability to move the arm and leg on one side of the body.

*Diplegia-*The inability to move either both arms or both legs.

Quadriplegia- A type of cerebral palsy that affects all limbs on both sides of the body

Monoplegia- A type of cerebral palsy that affects only one limb.

For Educators

Teaching Strategies

- Encourage independence
- Allow extra time for complex task
- Use a slower pace of speech
- Give additional time for the students to speak
- Use assistive technology and computers
- Use preferential seating near an outlet.
- Give oral test
- Reward efforts
- Provide breaks
- Provide additional room for the student to move
- Determine emergency evacuation procedures
- Ensure during field trips, accessibility is available.

Organizations

Children's Hemiplegia Stroke Association

<https://chasa.org/>

The Children's Hemiplegia and Stroke Association, CHASA, is a nonprofit organization founded by parents of children with hemiplegia in 1996 to provide information and support to families of children who have hemiplegia, hemiparesis, or hemiplegic cerebral palsy. These conditions are often caused by stroke in an infant and may also be the result of a number of different conditions.

Path International

<https://www.pathintl.org/>

A federally-registered 501(c3) nonprofit, was formed in 1969 as the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association to promote [equine-assisted activities and therapies](#) (EAAT) for individuals with special needs. With nearly 4,800 certified instructors and equine specialists and 873 member centers, nearly 8,000 PATH Intl. members around the globe help almost 69,000 children and adults-- including more than 6,700 veterans and active-duty military personnel--with physical, cognitive and emotional challenges find strength and independence through the power of the horse each year. In addition to [therapeutic riding](#), our centers offer a number of therapeutic equine-related activities, including [hippotherapy](#), [equine-facilitated mental health](#), [driving](#), [interactive vaulting](#), competition, ground work and stable management. More recently, programs offer services in human growth and

development to serve wide-ranging audiences for such educational purposes as leadership training, team building and other human capacity enhancement skills for the workplace and for daily use.

[Click here to find a center near you.](#)

United Cerebral Palsy Associations

<https://ucp.org/about-us/>

UCP and its 64 affiliates have a mission to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with a broad range of disabilities by providing services and support to more than 176,000 children and adults every day—one person at a time, one family at a time. UCP works to enact real change—to revolutionize care, raise standards of living and create opportunities—impacting the lives of millions living with disabilities. For more than 70 years, UCP has worked to ensure the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in every facet of society. Together, with parents and caregivers, UCP will continue to push for the social, legal and technological changes that increase accessibility and independence, allowing people with disabilities to dream their own dreams, for the next 70 years, and beyond.

DISABILITY AWARENESS FACT #54



Cerebral Palsy is the most common physical disability

www.specialneedsresourceblog.com

About Special Needs Resource and Training Blog

The mission of the Special Needs Resource Blog is to create a comprehensive blog on resources, information and training on special needs and developmental disability topics.