



for disabled children
and young people in Wales



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Thirteen different charities concerned with children and young people and disability have worked with the Bevan Foundation to find out about disabled children and young people's play and leisure activities. More than 80 children and young people told us about what they do, and more than 25 different organisations told us about the play and leisure activities they provide. This is a summary of the main findings.

Summary

Provision of play and leisure activities for disabled children and young people in Wales is covered by a large range of legislation and policies, from disability discrimination law to policies on children's rights to social care obligations to child poverty policies.

Despite this, the majority of disabled children participate in a limited number and range of activities and some disabled children and young people feel there is 'nothing for them'.

Disabled children and young people face barriers from lack of provision, lack of support, poor access to buildings and negative attitudes which, notwithstanding legislation and policies, prevent them from participating like non-disabled children and young people.

It doesn't have to be like this. A sizeable minority of disabled children participate in a large number of very varied activities, some integrated and some specialist, and there are a number of groups offering activities to disabled children and young people that are hugely successful. Key to success seem to be a rights-based approach, energetic staff and volunteers, involvement of children and young people, and funding no matter how modest.

Action is needed to make these opportunities available to all disabled children and young people. The report recommends:

- **Support for the local development of play and leisure activities.**
- **Effective inclusion in mainstream activities.**
- **Adequate funding for play and leisure.**
- **More stringent monitoring of provision and enforcement of obligations.**
- **Celebrating good practice.**

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A copy of the full report is available at www.bevanfoundation.org

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