What is Cerebral Palsy?

Cerebral palsy is a physical disability that affects movement and posture.

It is the most common physical disability in childhood.

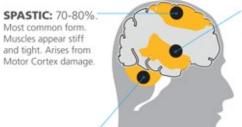
17 million people with cerebral palsy worldwide 7,000 people with cerebral palsy in New Zealand

You can help advance our knowledge and research into cerebral palsy by joining a Cerebral Palsy Register. Find out more at cpregister.com



MOTOR TYPES

ATAXIC: 6%



Characterised by shaky movements. Affects balance and sense of

positioning in space. Arises from Cerebellum damage.

DYSKINETIC: 6%. Characterised by involuntary movements. Arises from Basal Ganglia damage.

MIXED TYPES: Combination damage.

PARTS OF THE BODY

Cerebral palsy can affect different parts of the body

OUADRIPLEGIA/ BILATERAL:



Both arms and legs are affected. The muscles of the trunk, face and mouth are often also affected.

DIPLEGIA/ BILATERAL:



Both legs are affected. The arms may be affected to a lesser extent.

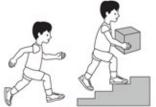
HEMIPLEGIA/ UNILATERAL:

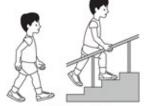


One side of the body (one arm and one leg) is affected

GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

The gross motor skills (e.g. sitting and walking) of children and young people with cerebral palsy can be categorised into 5 different levels using a tool called the Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS) developed by CanChild in Canada.





MANUAL ABILITY

At least two thirds of children with cerebral palsy will have movement difficulties affecting one or both arms. Almost every daily activity can be impacted.





Catching a ball

ASSOCIATED IMPAIRMENTS

Children with cerebral palsy may also have a range of physical and cognitive impairments.

1 in 3 is unable



1 in 4

is unable to talk



3 in 4 experience



Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia

1 in 4 has epilepsy



1 in 4

has a behaviour disorder



1 in 2

intellectual impairment



1 in 10

has a severe vision impairment



1 in 4

bladder control problems



1 in 5 has sleep disorder



1 in 5

has saliva control problems

