



 **newlife**
THE CHARITY FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

**PLAY
THERAPY
DOES**

SERVICE

THE POWER OF PLAY

At Newlife, we understand the power of play and the impact it can have on a child's physical and social development, and cognitive abilities. We also know how hard it can be for families to get hold of specialist toys, which often come with a specialist price tag. Families frequently have to prioritise purchasing practical equipment for their child and toys are pushed to the bottom of the list. There's also little rhyme or reason as to the toys children love to play with and respond to, so there's the additional worry that you might be wasting your money – and no one likes doing that. The right toys can encourage learning, improve relaxation and help to distract from pain and specific behaviours as well as giving your child the chance to enjoy playtime.

HOW CAN NEWLIFE HELP?

Newlife has the perfect solution. We offer the free loan of Play Therapy Pods – a collection of specialist toys carefully compiled by a play specialist to meet a child's specific development age and needs. The pods are a great way to 'try before you buy' and also provide a chance to have an ever changing selection to choose from because there is no limit to the amount of times you can apply for a pod.

EDUCATING ELIZABETH

Finding specialist toys when your child is a teenager with severe learning disabilities is not simple, as her mum, Heather had learned. she said: "It's hard to know what to buy for someone with profound and multiple learning difficulties and appropriate sensory toys can be very expensive. We have had a visual pod and I was very impressed with the equipment, much of which lights up. We even purchased one of the items for Elizabeth for her birthday. The pod included fibre optics, which I have kept in the kitchen so Elizabeth has something to entertain her when I am cooking."

**"I WAS VERY
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THE EQUIPMENT"**

WHAT'S IN A PLAY THERAPY POD?

There is a huge range of different toys available and each pod has been categorized according to your child's age and needs. The baby pod is suitable from birth - 18 months, and the infant pod is suitable between the ages of 18 months and 3 years - these contain a range of different toys because at this age we understand that specific needs may not yet be apparent so we have given a selection. The junior pod then supports from 3-5 years and junior plus pod from 5-18 years - they are then categorized by their 'play value' into Visual, Auditory, Tactile and Interactive specialist toys, to appeal to your child's specific needs.

ARE THEY EFFECTIVE?

We have had some really positive feedback from families who have used our Play Therapy Pod service. 87% of families have told us that the specialist toys actively improved relationships with their child and 82% of parents told us the toys gave them a better understanding of their child's needs. In addition we found that 72% of parents recognised a significant improvement in practical skills and abilities, such as improved hand-eye coordination.

ARE WE ELIGIBLE?

The minimum eligibility requirements for a Play Therapy Pod loan are that your child/young person is a permanent resident in the UK, has a significant physical, behavioural or learning disability which affects their daily life and is under the age of 19. If you are uncertain about your eligibility give our Care Services team a call on 0800 902 0095 and they will be happy to talk it through with you.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Once you have established your eligibility, you can download the application form from our website www.newlifecharity.co.uk/apply or digitally complete and submit the form online. Our Care Services Team will assess your application, and will be in touch when a pod is available to arrange delivery.

OUR SERVICES

WE RECOMMEND CALLING THE NEWLIFE NURSE HELPLINE ON 0800 902 0095 BEFORE APPLYING FOR ANY OF OUR SERVICES:

» NURSE HELPLINE

Newlife's fully qualified and registered Nurses are on hand to speak to families through our free national helpline and on-line chat service. They can provide information on local and national health and social care services, benefits and rights, where to turn and how to access support, as well as details on specific conditions.

» EQUIPMENT GRANTS

Providing essential equipment to support the needs of children with disabilities to ensure they are kept safe, healthy and given the opportunities that all children should be given to support their quality of life.

» EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT LOANS

Newlife runs the UK's only rapid response loan service, providing equipment free of charge to children who are in very urgent need. This emergency service is for those who just cannot wait for equipment either because the child is at significant risk of injury, has a shortened life expectancy or is terminally ill. We aim to deliver urgently needed specialist equipment within 72 hours to children whose safety and health is at risk without it.

» COMFORT CAPSULES

When a child is given a terminal diagnosis their medical needs often outweigh the emotional needs of the whole family. Newlife's Comfort Capsules include a collection of carefully chosen products for the child and the family, combining practical products with items that enable the family to make lasting memories of their child.

» CHILD CENTRED COLLABORATION

We lobby local and central government to improve the services and support available for disabled and terminally ill children, as well as investing in pioneering medical research in order to develop treatments for genetic birth defects that remain the main cause of childhood disability in the UK.

0800 902 0095

(Free from UK mobiles and landlines)

Lines open Monday - Friday 9:30am - 5pm

& Wednesdays until 7pm plus 24 hour answerphone

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