

# RESOURCES FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS

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- [Parent to Parent USA](#) is a group that matches each parent with a fellow parent who has a child with the same special healthcare need, disability or mental health concern, allowing each parent or family to have a contact for sharing information, receiving support and creating new friendships.
- [Federation for Children with Special Needs](#) is a national organization that provides information, support and assistance to parents of children with disabilities, their professional partners and their communities.
- [The Council for Exceptional Children](#) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the educational success of children with disabilities. By advocating for successful governmental policies, setting standards for professionals in the education industry, and providing professional development seminars, the organization helps teachers, administrators, parents, related students and other educational support staff to best support and educate the children with special needs with whom they work.
- [Move United](#) organizes year-round sport and recreation opportunities for people with a wide range of disabilities. Their offerings include more than 70 different adaptive sports.
- [Best Buddies](#) helps children with disabilities form meaningful one-to-one friendships with peers. Through these relationships, Best Buddies works to help those with special needs improve their communication skills, secure jobs, and develop the necessary skills to live independently.
- [Friendship Circle](#) emphasizes the importance of friendship and has locations throughout the country to support parents with children who may have difficulties making friends regardless of their abilities.
- [Disaster Preparedness for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs \(aap.org\)](#): The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) provides resources for disaster preparedness including tips on how to prepare, build an emergency kit, and helping parents stay informed.
- [California Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\)](#) provides helpful links to resources for people with disabilities including California Children's Services (CCS). CCS is a State program for children with certain health problems. Through this program, eligible children up to 21 years old can receive the health care and services they need. CCS will connect you with doctors and trained health care people who know how to care for your child with special health care needs.