

## **SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY**

A child care worker can do a great deal to help children with disabilities to develop a positive image of themselves. In many cases, the child care worker may be the first adult that the child meets outside its own home and for this reason the carer's reactions to the child are important:

- Always treat the child as an individual and ensure that the child is considered first and his disability second.
- Never address the person pushing the wheelchair, always address the occupant even it is a small child
- Make an effort to ensure that the child mixes with the other children, do not leave them isolated.
- Do not allow other children to poke fun at the child. Children must be taught to respect a child with disabilities.
- Always praise and encourage the child even for the smallest achievement
- Involve the child in all the activities that are going on and encourage them to explore their environment.
- Report the child's progress to the parents/carer on a regular basis and make sure they are aware of the child's achievements, however small.
- Do not make exceptions for the child's behaviour: the child must be encouraged to develop the same self-discipline as other children.
- Have realistic expectations of the child and their abilities.
- Provide activities appropriate for their ability so that they have a chance of achieving.
- Give opportunities for the child to make decisions and encourage them to make choices.

A child care worker should set an example of good practice for the other adults that come into contact with the child. It is also important to adopt a supportive attitude for the parents/carer of the child as this will encourage them in their efforts to help the child lead a lifestyle that is as normal as possible.