

The law says more about how disabled children and their families should be helped. **The table below explains this:**

Legal provisions	What it says
<b>The Children Act 1989</b>	<p>Any support given to a disabled child (following an assessment of their needs) should be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the effects of their disability and</li> <li>• Provide them with the opportunity to lead their life as normally as possible.</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="#">schedule 2, paragraph 6 of the Children Act 1989</a>.</p>
<b>The Equality Act 2010</b>	<p><a href="#">Section 6 of the Equality Act</a> says a disabled person is someone who has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A physical or mental impairment</li> <li>• And this has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out day to day activities.</li> </ul> <p>If a child (or adult) has a disability fitting this definition they are protected by the Equalities Act. This means that people and organisations (including children's services):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must not discriminate against disabled people when providing support</li> <li>• Must make "reasonable adjustments" for disabled people to access the same services as other people can (see <a href="#">section 20 of the Equality Act 2010</a>).</li> </ul> <p>What is reasonable will depend on the precise situation and disability. Examples of adjustments may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing interpreters</li> <li>• Providing ramps and lifts so a meeting is accessible</li> <li>• Providing hearing loops</li> <li>• Other similar adjustments.</li> </ul>