

## **Cerebral Visual Impairment and Physical Activity in the UK: A parent's perspective.**

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Type of Contribution:

Age Range Infant/Toddler, Pre-School, Elementary, Middle School, High School

Population Visual Impairment, Additional Disabilities/Severe

Physical Activity Visual Impairment, Additional Disabilities/Severe

Session Activity Research Presentation (20 minutes)

Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) is an umbrella term, which encompasses brain related visual and perceptual difficulties. In the UK, the most frequent cause of severe visual impairment is brain injury. Damage to the visual brain because of brain injury, can lead to visual malfunction causing CVI. Whilst CVI can be acquired, it can also be congenital, occurring in the womb or after birth because of prematurity and genetic conditions. It is well documented visual impairment can have a long-standing impact on a child's development and health. Children and young people with CVI are likely to experience delayed motor, language and cognitive developments. We know from a number of studies that children who are visually impaired have lower levels of physical activity. Despite the importance and positive effects of physical activity, many children experience a lack of opportunities and experience barriers to participate in physical. This study for the first time in the UK looks at parent/career reporting of their child with CVI physical activities. We surveyed 112 parents/careers of children with CVI and asked how confident they felt in their ability to provide support for their child's physical activity/ active play and to support their child in a range of physical activities. This presentation will report the wide range of responses given