



10 Things Every Family *with Additional Needs* Should Know



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1

You're Not Alone

Across the UK there are strong networks of parents and carers walking the same journey. Local SEND support groups, charities, and online communities are there to connect you.

2

Every Child Has a Right to Be Included

All children deserve access to learning, play, and community. Inclusion isn't optional – it's a right.

3

SENDASS Calderdale Can Be Your Ally

Every local authority has a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDASS). They offer free, impartial advice to help you navigate schools, EHCPs, and more.



4 Early Support Makes a Difference

Don't wait for a crisis. Health visitors, GPs, speech and language services, and other early years professionals can make referrals. **Keep asking until you're heard.**

5 Schools Have a Legal Duty of Care

Every mainstream school in England and Wales must have a SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator). You have the right to speak directly with them about your child's needs.

6 Respite and Short Breaks Are Available

Most local authorities offer respite options and short breaks for families with SEND children. Many parents don't know this exists. **Ask your social worker or contact the Disabled Children's Team.**



7

Support Is for Parents Too

Parent carer forums, coffee mornings, and peer support sessions run across the UK. Parents need safe spaces as much as children do.

8

Financial Help Exists

You may be entitled to Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Carer's Allowance, or adjustments via Universal Credit. Many councils also have Welfare Rights teams or local charities that can help with applications.

9

Your GP Can Unlock More Than You Think

Many families don't realise that GPs can refer not only for medical assessments but also to local therapies, early intervention services, and even parent support groups. If you feel stuck, **keep going back, persistence often makes the difference.**

10 Noa's Place Is Coming

Right now, so many families are stuck in the waiting. Waiting for assessments. Waiting for services. Waiting for support that never comes soon enough.

Noa's Place is being created to change that.

What it will be

- Sensory rooms where children and adults can find calm and joy.
- Soft play designed with inclusion in mind.
- Classrooms and community spaces for learning, parent groups, and workshops.
- A café where families can relax and connect.
- Even a charity shop to help sustain the vision and bring people together.



Who it's for:

- Children, adults, and families with additional needs.
- Parents and carers who need support before reaching crisis point.
- Siblings who deserve to feel included.
- The wider community, because inclusion is for everyone.

Why it matters:

Because no child should feel left out.

Because no parent should feel invisible.

Because help shouldn't come after the crisis, **it should come before.**

Be part of it from the beginning.

Join our Founding Supporters list today and help shape Noa's Place into the safe, inclusive hub Calderdale needs.

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