



Inclusive Futures

Promoting disability inclusion

Support guide for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities

Supporting Mainstreaming Inclusion
so all can Learn Equally (SMILE)

Inclusive Education Project Nigeria



The SMILE project's aim is for all children, regardless of their background, sex and ability, to successfully participate in their local schools. Every child has the right to education, and we are committed to supporting them to develop their full potential. We acknowledge the important role you play in a child's education, and we want to ensure you feel supported in overcoming the challenges you may encounter.

We have produced this guide to let you know that you are not on your own. We are here to help support your child in their learning, and together we can make sure your child is not left behind. As you read

through this guide, you will realise that the road to inclusive education does not have to be travelled alone. There are highly qualified and deeply caring individuals who will assist you every step of the way.



This Parent support guide has been developed by a Working Group comprised of:

Hope for the Handicapped Persons Foundation, Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities, the Women with Disabilities Self Reliance Foundation and Kaduna State Ministry of Human Services and Social Development with general oversight and support of the SMILE Steering Committee and Sightsavers.

We acknowledge and appreciate individual contributions from:

Jema'a Emirate Council, Jema'a Local Government Education Authority, Kaduna State Ministry of Human Services and Social Development, Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board, Kaduna State College of Education, National Eye Centre Kaduna, National Ear Care Centre Kaduna, Rehabilitation Centre, Takau Kafanchan, Jema'a LGA Kaduna, Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital Barnawa, Kaduna Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Administrative Studies and Social Sciences, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna.



Observing that your child may have difficulty learning or may have a disability is not easy. Absorbing information while trying to figure out what to do about it is stressful. It is easy to become overwhelmed by concerns about what it all means for your child's future, so we suggest taking it one step at a time.



Looking ahead too far and worrying about what may or may not happen can quickly stop you from thinking clearly. It can make it hard to focus on your child's immediate needs and how best to meet them. Remind yourself that every child is unique, each one having their own talents and abilities. We just need to find the best ways to stimulate their development and help them to develop their full potential.



There are many types of functional difficulties and disabilities that can limit a child's participation in an unaccommodating environment. A child may have difficulty with any of the following:

- Seeing
- Hearing
- Comprehension (understanding)
- Movement (mobility)
- Communication
- Managing their emotions, social relationships and mental health

Disability can affect individual children in different ways, even among children with the same type of disability. Children can also be affected by more than one type of disability, such as mobility impairment and poor eyesight. A child's disability can be present at birth or occur later in life due to an injury or illness. And some forms of disability are visible but others are hidden.

What support is available to you and your child?

In a school

The first point of contact is the headteacher or classroom teacher. They have received training to help identify what functional difficulties your child may have and to address any potential barriers to learning.

The school will also have a counsellor who will work in close collaboration with you and your child's teacher to provide learning support.

Members of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) are also trained to help you with concerns about your child's learning. They can also guide you on the things that can be done to provide support for your child.



Outside of school

The SMILE project has a group of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) to support inclusive education and they are available to help you with any questions around disability. The OPD are:

- The Albino Foundation (TAF)
- Hope for the Handicapped Persons Foundation (HHPF)
- Nigeria Association of the Blind (NAB)
- Nigerian National Association of the Deaf (NNAD)
- Women with Disability Self Reliance Foundation (WWDSRF)
- Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD)

The government and civil society organisations (CSOs) also provide a wide range of services to provide medical and social support to children with disabilities – a detailed list can be found on p.7-11.

Helpful hints for you

It's important for you and your child to work in partnership with the school, as it will ensure your child enjoys their learning and develop their full potential. Here are some ways to develop a trusting partnership with your child's school:



Attend your child's school open day. It will give you an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn about the school and classroom expectations for all students. It will also give you the opportunity to tell the school about your child's unique needs.



Contact your child's teacher/headteacher whenever you have concerns. No one knows more about your child than you. By working together, you and the teacher or headteacher can help your child to have a successful education.



Schools have parent-teacher meetings as the need arises during the year, offering you opportunities to learn more about your child's education, teacher and school. Sharing information and working together will help your child reach their full potential, and meeting with your child's teacher will help to build a strong partnership. Talking about your child's strengths, talents, hobbies and interests will help the teacher understand them better so that they can fully support them in their education.

When you have a concern, please talk to someone about it. Typically, you would use the contacts below to discuss your concern. If you don't feel satisfied after speaking with a person, we suggest you contact someone else on the list. You can contact the following:

- The headteacher and or classroom teacher
- The Committee of Inclusive Education chairperson and / or School-Based Management Committee members
- Social Mobilisation Officers
- Local Government Education Secretary
- State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB)

You may also contact one of the SMILE Organisations of Persons with Disabilities partners. Or you could contact a professional support service provider outside of the education system. These are listed on pages 7-11.

Summary list of service providers

Name	Service provided	Address	Phone
Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, Barnawa, Kaduna	Free services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychoeducation concerning a child's condition • Free consultations with members of Neuro-Psychiatric multi-disciplinary team (doctors, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapist, psychiatric nurses etc.) • Assisting indigent patients with medication and other care through various bodies such as an indigent hospital fund 	Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, Opposite Shagari Low-Cost, P.M.B. 2187, Barnawa, Kaduna.	08181986590
National Ear Care Centre, Kaduna	It does not offer free services. However, there are subsidies for people/children with disabilities.	National Ear Care Centre, Golf Course Road, City Centre 800283, Kaduna.	08191235171 08190503323 08191560880
National Eye Centre, Mando, Kaduna	National Eye Centre provides preventive treatment and diagnostic services for all people in Nigeria. It offers psychosocial support, community-based services, pediatric services, referrals, prescription lenses and assistive devices. It has a directory of all the schools and services offered to individuals with visual impairment in all the states of the federation and at national level. Free services for persons with disabilities (PWD): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community services for PWD • Referral services. If the SBMC makes a referral, it is free. When the client initiates it, especially for PWD, it is free or subsidised. • Educational services for PWD • Networking and partnership with the private sector/NGOs to source fund for treatment for those who cannot afford it, especially for CWD and PWD 	National Eye Centre, Mando, Kaduna.	07064321403

Name	Service provided	Address	Phone
Ministry of Human Services and Social Development, Kaduna State	Free provision of psychosocial and medical support to children, including those with disabilities who are affected by sexual assault.	Ministry of Human Services and Social Development, Ibadan Street, Magajin Gari, Kaduna.	08066782281
Kaduna State Disability Affairs Board, Kaduna	Serves as a resource information centre on issues of disability. Parents or caregivers of children with disabilities are free to request any information on disability. It is producing assistive mobility aids for children with disabilities, such as tricycles and rollers. The board also link parents or caregivers of children with disabilities with information on where to access different support services. It also has two rehabilitation centres that are providing skill acquisition and psychosocial support to children with disabilities (see below).	Kaduna State Disability Affairs Board, Headquarters, No.13 Abubakar Kigo Road, Kaduna.	08063647485 08039356160
Rehabilitation Centre, Kakuri Kaduna	This centre provides training for all categories of children and older persons with disabilities, including learning braille and sign language.	Rehabilitation Centre, next to Gwamna Awan General Hospital, Kakuri, Kaduna South.	07035950765 08038695553
Rehabilitation Centre, Takau Kafanchan, Jama'a LGA Kaduna	This centre provides training for all categories of children and older persons with disabilities, including learning braille and sign language.	Rehabilitation Centre, Takau, opposite Government Secondary School, Takau Kafanchan, Jama'a LGA, Kaduna.	08062285168 08032412806
Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Zaria	Counselling services	Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Hajiya Gambo Sawaba General Hospital, Kofar Gayan, Zaria, Kaduna.	08063647485 08039356160

Name	Service provided	Address	Phone
Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Yusuf Dantsoho General Hospital	Counselling services	Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Yusuf Dantsoho General Hospital, Tudun Wada, opposite Kaduna Polytechnic main campus, Kaduna.	08063647485 08039356160
Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Gwamna Awan General Hospital	Counselling services	Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Gwamna Awan General Hospital, Makera, Kaduna.	08063647485 08039356160
Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Kafanchan	Counselling services	Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Sir Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa Memorial Hospital, Kafanchan, Kaduna.	08063647485 08039356160
Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB)	The Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (KadSUBEB) is responsible for ensuring all children have access to free, compulsory, basic education. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of mobility aids, such as wheelchairs and white canes, for learners with disabilities • Ensuring that all children with disabilities remain in their communities and are enrolled into school through their social mobilisation unit • Recruiting and posting regular and special educators to public primary schools in the state 	Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board, Desk Officer, Inclusive Education (KadSUBEB).	08067763232

Name	Service provided	Address	Phone
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Administrative Studies and Social Sciences, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna	<p>This is one of the leading support service institutions in northern Nigeria that has trained professionals in the field of education, especially rehabilitation and inclusive education. Some of the services available for parents, professionals and learners with disabilities are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling and therapeutic services • Physiotherapy services • Hearing screening for the hearing impaired • Vocational training • Demonstration school for the intellectual and mentally challenged children (MR/LD, autistic, cerebral palsy) • Speech therapy • Training of specialists in transactional communication in braille and sign language • Training of other professionals in the field of inclusive and special education in Nigeria • Referral services 	Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Administrative Studies and Social Sciences, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna.	07032958940
Jema'a Local Government Education Authority, Jema'a Local Government, Kaduna	<p>The support services for parents and other personnel working with children with disabilities in the area are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous support and supervision of teachers in inclusive education • Provision of teaching and learning materials in the public primary schools in the LGA • Ensuring school infrastructures are in good condition and in accessible format for all categories of learners 	Jema'a Local Government Education Authority, Kaduna.	07089861278, 08084424947

Name	Service provided	Address	Phone
Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan Waya	<p>The college is a teacher training institution established by the state government to train professional teachers in the state. Services provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of professional and resource people in inclusive and special educational needs • A counselling complex with vibrant and qualified professional guardians and counsellors • The institution has written to the state executive to waive tuition fees of learners with disabilities in the institution 	Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan Waya, Kaduna.	08036529338
Jema'a Emirate Council	<p>This traditional institution is the custodian of the culture and tradition/religion of the community. The council does not have a standardised service delivery system, but it does have a responsibility to provide food, clothing and financial support to vulnerable members of the communities, primarily those with disabilities.</p> <p>Upholding the custom, religion and tradition of the Emirate, the following support is available to PWD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide food for PWD during the holy month of Ramadan and other festive activities • Provide free uniforms and books for CWDs as a measure to encourage enrolment, retention and transition to the next level of education • Mobilise community members to provide all the needed support and care for people in need of special services/help 	Jema'a Emirate Council, Kafanchan, Jema'a, Kaduna.	08064292516

ADD International | BBC Media Action | Benetech | BRAC
Central Organization of Trade Unions Kenya | Development Initiatives
Equal Rights Trust | Humanity & Inclusion | Inclusion International
Innovations for Poverty Action | The Institute of Development Studies
International Disability Alliance | Kenya Female Advisory Organization
Leonard Cheshire | Light for the World | LINC | Sense International
Sightsavers | Social Development Direct | Standard Chartered
Sustainable Hospitality Alliance | Ulula | United Disabled Persons of Kenya

www.inclusivefutures.org

