

JAN

Job Accommodation Network

Practical Solutions • Workplace Success

Fact Sheet Series

Accommodating Students with Cerebral Palsy

Job Accommodation Network
PO Box 6080
Morgantown, WV 26506-6080
(800)526-7234 (V)
(877)781-9403 (TTY)
jan@askjan.org
askjan.org



A service of the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy

JAN'S ACCOMMODATION FACT SHEET SERIES

ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is a disorder caused by damage to the brain during or shortly after birth, especially affecting the ability to control movement and posture. CP is not a disease so it is not progressive, communicable, inherited, or a primary cause of death.

The United Cerebral Palsy Association estimates that approximately 3,000 infants are born with CP each year. In the United States, 500,000 adults and children have one or more of the symptoms associated with CP. Symptoms may include muscular weakness and floppiness (hypotonia); abnormal, awkward positions; a tendency to favor one side of the body over the other; poor muscle control and lack of coordination; muscle spasms or seizures; problems with sucking, chewing, or swallowing; inability to control bladder and bowels (incontinence); and difficulty speaking, concentrating, and interpreting sense perceptions, such as touch.

The following is a quick overview of some of the accommodations that might be useful for students with CP. For a discussion regarding how to accommodate people with CP in the workplace, access our publication titled "Accommodating People with Cerebral Palsy" at <http://askjan.org/media/CP.html>.

Performing Activities of Daily Living:

- Provide an accessible restroom
- Assign classrooms close to an accessible restroom
- Allow the use of personal care attendants
- Allow the use of a service animal
- Schedule classes to allow extra time for activities of daily living (ADL)

Accessing Classrooms:

- Provide accessible parking, an accessible route of travel, and accessible entrances/exits
- Install lightweight doors or automatic door openers
- Maintain unobstructed hallways, aisles, and means of egress
- Provide an accessible classroom desk or portable wheelchair desk

Taking Notes:

- Use a laptop computer with alternative computer input device/software
- Use writing and grip aids
- Provide a note taker
- Provide a copy of the instructor's notes or outline

Studying and Test Taking:

- Use a computer software program for self-editing, word prediction, and grammar/spell check
- Use an electronic organizer, post notes/reminders
- Allow extra time to complete homework assignments
- Provide a scribe

Communicating with Others:

- Use a communication aid with speech output
- Add communication software/speech synthesizer to a laptop
- Use a speech clarification device

Resources Specifically for Students with Cerebral Palsy**Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)**

Univ. of Mass. Boston
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125-3393
617-287-3880 (V)
617-287-3882 (TTY)
<http://ahead.org>

HEATH Resource Center

The George Washington University
2121 K Street, NW Suite 220
Washington, DC 20037
202-973-0904/800-544-3284
<http://www.heath.gwu.edu>

National Disability Sports Alliance (NDSA)

Formerly the United States Cerebral Palsy Athletic Association
25 West Independence Way
Kingston, RI 02881
401-792-7130
<http://www.ndsaonline.org/main.htm>

United Cerebral Palsy Association

7 Penn Plaza, Suite 804
New York, NY 10001
800-USA-1UCP
<http://www.ucpa.org>

Updated 3/23/10.

This document was developed by the Job Accommodation Network, funded by a contract agreement from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (DOL079RP20426). The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Department of Labor. Nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Labor.