

A photograph of a baby playing with a large white teddy bear and a Mickey Mouse plush toy. The baby is wearing a pink top and is holding a small black object. The background is dark with colorful lighting.

 newlife

THE CHARITY FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

PLAY  
THERAPY  
SERVICE

SERVICE

## The Power of Play

At Newlife, we understand the power of play and the impact it can have on a child's physical and social development, and cognitive abilities. We also know how hard it can be for families to get hold of specialist toys, which often come with a specialist price tag. Families frequently have to prioritise purchasing practical equipment for their child and toys are pushed to the bottom of the list. There's also little rhyme or reason as to the toys children love to play with and respond to, so there's the additional worry that you might be wasting your money – and no one likes doing that. The right toys can encourage learning, improve relaxation and help to distract from pain and specific behaviours as well as giving your child the chance to enjoy playtime.

## How can Newlife help?

Newlife has the perfect solution. We offer the free loan of Play Therapy Pods – a collection of specialist toys carefully compiled to meet a child's specific development age and needs. The pods are a great way to 'try before you buy' and also provide a chance to have an ever changing selection to choose from because there is no limit to the amount of times you can apply for a pod.

### Family Play

Finding specialist toys for your child to respond to when they have disabilities can be difficult, but finding the right ones can be life-changing – which is something Oscar and Theo's mum, Cortney discovered. She said: "Play Therapy Pods are so much more than just a box of toys. The bubble machine is one of Oscar's favourite toys. He reaches up on his legs to pop the bubbles – something he wouldn't do with toys before." They have also given us the chance to make lasting memories as a family and it's lovely to see the two of them playing together and building special bonds."

"I was very impressed with the equipment"

## What's in a Play Therapy Pod?

There is a huge range of different toys available and each pod has been categorized according to your child's age and needs.

The Sensory pod is suitable from birth, and the Adventure pods are suitable from 18 months. These contain a range of different toys because at this age we understand that specific needs may not yet be apparent so we have given a selection of toys.

The Discovering pods are suitable from three years and Exploring Pods are suitable from five - they are categorized into Visual, Auditory, Tactile, Interactive and communication all containing specialist toys that just focus on the individual sensory element, to appeal to your child's specific needs.

## Are they effective?

We have had some really positive feedback from families who have used our Play Therapy Pod service. 87% of families have told us that the specialist toys actively improved relationships with their child and 82% of parents told us the toys gave them a better understanding of their child's needs. In addition we found that 72% of parents recognised a significant improvement in practical skills and abilities, such as improved hand-eye coordination.

## Are we eligible?

The minimum eligibility requirements for a Play Therapy Pod loan are that your child/young person is a permanent resident in the UK, has a significant physical, behavioural or learning disability which affects their daily life and is under the age of 19. If you are uncertain about your eligibility give our Child and Family Support Team a call on 0800 902 0095 and they will be happy to talk it through with you.

## How do I apply?

Once you have established your eligibility, you can download the application form from our website <https://forms.newlifecharity.co.uk> or digitally complete and submit the form online. Our Child and Family Support Team will assess your application, and will be in touch when a pod is available to arrange delivery.

# Our Services

**We recommend calling the Newlife Nurse Helpline on 0800 902 0095 before applying for any of our services:**

- **Equipment Application**

Newlife looks to provide essential equipment to meet your child's needs. Each application must be supported by an appropriate professional who must be aware of the application and willing to support.

- **Play Therapy Pods**

Newlife believes every child has a right to play. The therapeutic benefits are proven to support a disabled child's behavioural, cognitive and social development. We offer pods of specialist toys that are suitable from birth up to the child/young person's 19th birthday that are provided on a free 12-week loan.

# 0800 902 0095

(Free from UK mobiles and landlines)

Lines open Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm

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