



## **About Us**

Chip+ is a registered charity offering a first-stop shop to the families of children and young people with additional needs of any kind by providing accurate, up to date and accessible information quickly and easily. We also provide training, a range of publications and support for families within the education process.

CHIP+ was started in 1993 by a group of parent/carers and representatives of organisations working with children with disabilities throughout Highland. Together they recognised the need for good quality and easily available information for families and professionals. CHIP+ has continued to work closely with parent/carers and partner organisations, who now manage the charity through the Board of Directors. For many years CHIP+ had only one member of staff but since 2004 and the Scottish Government's Additional Support for Learning legislation, it has received funding through a Service Level Agreement with Highland Council and NHS Highland which has enabled us to appoint more staff and expand our services.

Our four staff work from our main office at the Birnie Centre at Raigmore Hospital and our additional office base at:-

The Pines - an interagency Centre in Drummond Road, Inverness which provides the opportunity to work more closely to integrate services and improve outcomes for children and young people with ASD and their families throughout Highland.

## **What we do**

- A wide range of up-to-date information on particular conditions, equipment, holidays, funding, education etc. If we don't know the answer we'll try to find it for you or put you in touch with someone who can help.
- Information Packs for Parents and Carers (see link on the left) and a range of information sheets.
- A free lending library with a wide range of resources (see link on the left).
- A free quarterly newsletter (see link on the left).
- Training events for families and professionals who work with them.
- Extra information and support for parents/carers whose child needs additional support at school.

## **Who we work with**

Worrying that your child is not developing as he or she should, or receiving a diagnosis that your child has a medical condition, are stressful, anxious and often lonely experiences. But the worrying does not stop at diagnosis: living with a child who has additional needs throws up all kinds of questions –for you, your other children, wider family and friends, the school, the groups your child attends-and of course for the child him/herself. Different ages and stages will bring up additional or different situations where helpful information can be hard to find.

Families in Highland often have additional hurdles to overcome because of isolation and lack of local resources and groups. CHIP+ works with families throughout the whole area and provides both information and outreach events to smaller communities throughout the region.

Our work is not limited to families where a child or young person has a particular disability. Any child who requires additional support to fulfil their potential – because of family circumstances, emotional distress for whatever reason, behaviour issues or their own caring responsibilities-falls within our remit.

CHIP+ also works with professionals-largely from Health, Education and Social Work, but anyone working with children and young people with additional support needs is welcome to contact us-to access a helpful and prompt information service, or to keep up to date with what is happening by signing on for our free newsletter