

DHSSPS position on Respite and Short Breaks

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Relevant Policy Docs

- Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy 2011
- *Equal Lives* (Bamford Report on Learning Disability) 2005
- *Caring for Carers* 2006
- Joint Review of Support Provision for Carers 2009

Benefits of short breaks

- Enable parents and carers to keep on doing what they do
- Potential reduction in need for long-term residential care placements
- Reduction in family stress
 - Potential reduction in referral to other support services
 - Reduction in sickness absence

What parents say about respite

- Too hard to access
- Eligibility not clear
- Not equitable
- Not always tailored to suit the child's needs, so it's hard to relax
- *More of it, please!*

What we're doing

- Risk management guidance
- HSC work around equity
- Personalisation agenda
- Pilots eg:
 - Wraparound
 - Shared care schemes
 - Community outreach respite

Much more to do!

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