

What is Cerebral Palsy?

Cerebral palsy is a physical disability that affects movement and posture.

It is the most common physical disability in childhood.

You can help advance our knowledge and research into cerebral palsy by joining a Cerebral Palsy Register. Find out more at worldcpday/cpregisters

17 million
people with cerebral palsy
worldwide

MOTOR TYPES

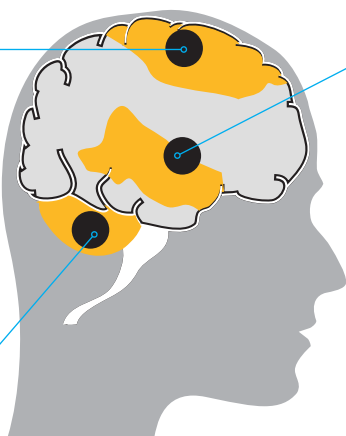
SPASTIC: 80-90%.
Most common form. Muscles appear stiff and tight. Arises from Motor Cortex damage.

DYSKINETIC: 6%.
Characterised by involuntary movements such as dystonia, athetosis and/or chorea. Arises from damage to the Basal Ganglia.

MIXED TYPES:
A number of children with CP will have two motor types present e.g. spasticity and dystonia.

ATAXIC: 5%

Characterised by shaky movements. Affects balance and sense of positioning in space. Arises from Cerebellum damage.

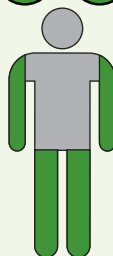


PARTS OF THE BODY

Cerebral palsy can affect different parts of the body e.g.

SPASTIC QUADRIPLEGIA/ BILATERAL

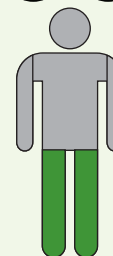
LIMBS AFFECTED
1 2 3 4



Both arms and legs are affected. The muscles of the trunk, face and mouth are often also affected.

SPASTIC DIPLEGIA/ BILATERAL

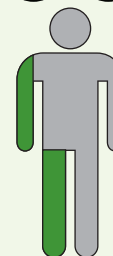
LIMBS AFFECTED
1 2 3 4



Both legs are affected. The arms may be affected to a lesser extent.

SPASTIC HEMIPLEGIA/ UNILATERAL

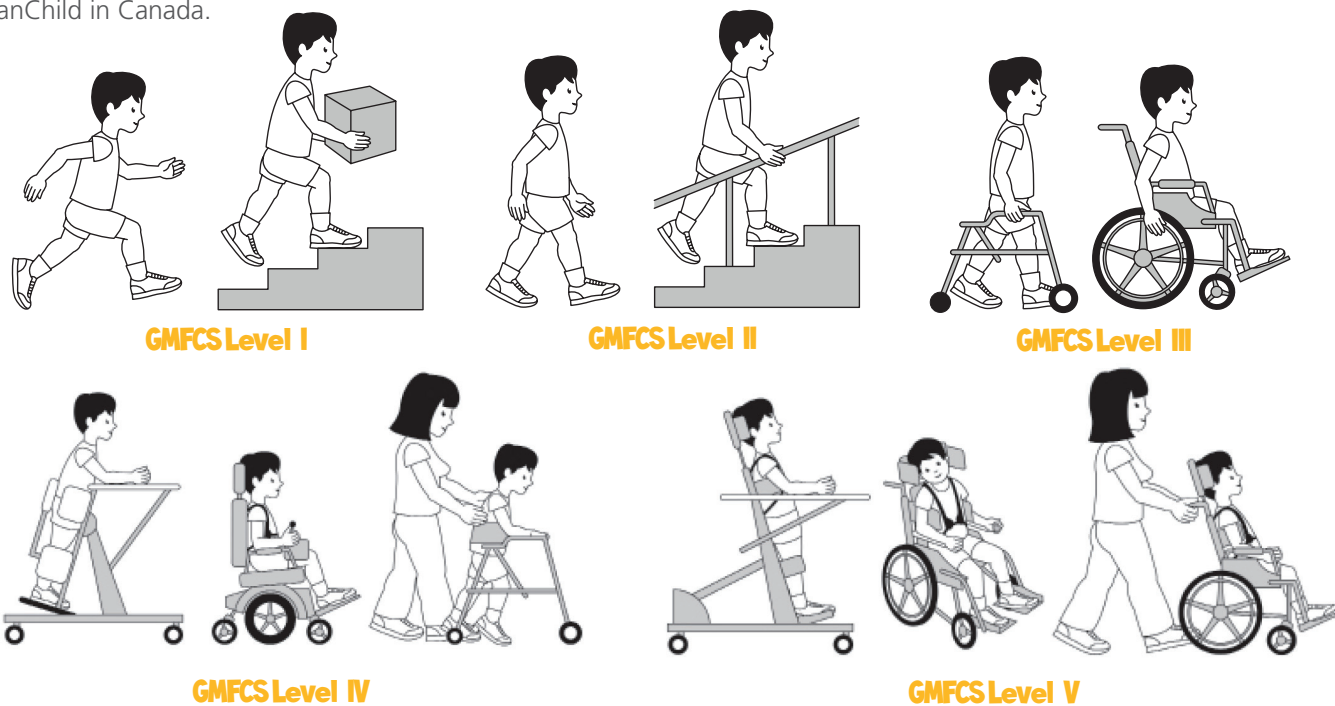
LIMBS AFFECTED
1 2 3 4



One side of the body (one arm and one leg) is affected

GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

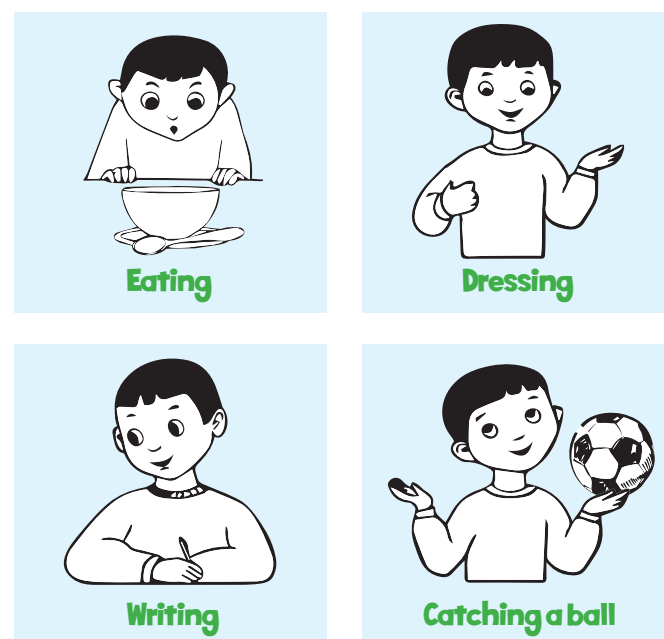
The gross motor skills (e.g. sitting and walking) of children and young people with cerebral palsy can be categorised into 5 different levels using a tool called the Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS) developed by CanChild in Canada.



GMFCS Illustrations 6-12: © Bill Reid, Kate Willoughby, Adrienne Harvey and Kerr Graham, The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne.

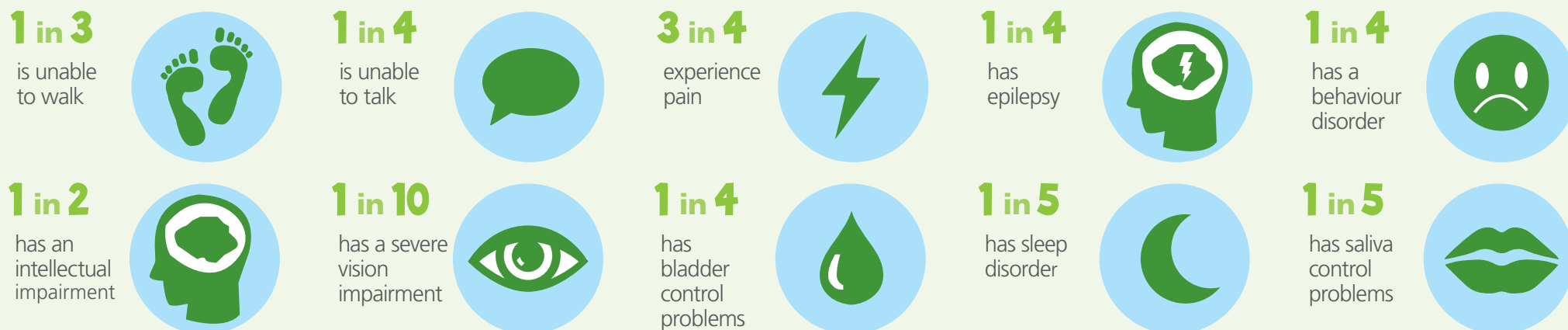
MANUAL ABILITY

At least two thirds of children with cerebral palsy will have movement difficulties affecting one or both arms. Almost every daily activity can be impacted.



ASSOCIATED IMPAIRMENTS

Children with cerebral palsy may also have a range of physical and cognitive impairments.



World Cerebral Palsy Day worldcpday.org

Proudly supported by The Allergan Foundation

References: Novak I, Hines M, Goldsmith S, Barclay R (2012). Clinical prognostic messages from a systematic review on cerebral palsy. *Pediatrics*. Nov 2012;130 (5). Palisano R, Rosenbaum P, Walter S, Russell D, Wood E & Galuppi B (1997). Development and validation of a Gross Motor Function Classification System for children with Cerebral Palsy. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*, 39, 214-223. CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research www.canchild.ca. Australian Cerebral Palsy Register, Birth Years 1993-2009, September 2016.

