(21) Parents: Effect on motor skills and language

Children with difficult to control epilepsy and additional needs may have problems with motor skills, learning and language. This is often caused by the underlying problem with the brain that leads to these difficulties, but some types of epilepsy can also affect brain functioning.

Our brain controls the movements of muscles. Underlying problems can affect both our fine motor skills, which are the smaller movements such as picking up something between fingers and thumb, and our gross motor skills, which are the larger movements such as moving an arm, leg, or lifting the head.

Treatment options

A child’s specialist will want to try and bring the seizures under control as much as possible in order to improve motor and language skills.

A referral to a physiotherapist, occupational therapist and/or speech and language therapist can also help improve a child’s functioning and independence.

Other sources of support

Cerebra, a charity supporting children with neurological problems, offer vouchers for speech therapy for up to £500 for children between the ages of 1 and 16. To be eligible a child needs to:

- be aged between 1 and 16
- have a neurological condition
- have not received individual or group speech therapy in the last six months
- have a Co-ordinated Support Plan in place if they are of school age
For more information on this scheme, contact Cerebra on 0800 328 1159 or visit their website www.cerebra.org.uk