



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for your interest in Whizz-Kidz. Please find enclosed the application form to apply for equipment. **The notes at the start of the application form explain the information we need. Please read it all carefully. There is a check list at the back of the application form which you can use to ensure you have included all the information we need.**

### **Who are we?**

Whizz-Kidz is a children's mobility charity and our goal is to give children and young people under 18, who have limited mobility or no mobility at all, the independence they need to get around and lead a more active childhood. Established in 1990, we have provided mobility equipment, training and advice to over 6,000 children across the UK. Our service is focused on meeting the child's individual mobility needs and supporting them to ensure they get the right mobility equipment, advice and training at the right time. This is why we have a team of qualified mobility therapists based around the UK who assess each child individually for the equipment they need.

### **What you need to know**

- You can only apply for one piece of equipment at a time from Whizz-Kidz.
- We prioritise all cases in terms of the need and we do not assess a child for equipment until we have funds available to purchase the equipment.
- We do not use a means test to decide if we will fund and provide equipment.
- You will know within four weeks of sending us your application if you have been successful and your application has been placed on the waiting list.
- When funding is available one of our mobility therapists will help you and the child/young person to identify the needs you both have and following a thorough assessment, choose the most appropriate equipment based on their expert knowledge of the equipment available.

### **Partnership working**

As a charity we rely on the generous support of the general public, companies, charitable trusts and local groups. Whizz-Kidz works with the statutory services where possible and in particular with the NHS wheelchair service. When you have given your consent we will contact your child's local wheelchair service if appropriate to see if we can undertake a joint assessment and jointly fund equipment which meets the child's needs. We work closely with the child's local therapist, the Local Education Authority and other charities who may be able to contribute funds. We also welcome contributions from families.

### **We are always moving forward**

The charity is focused on meeting a child's individual mobility needs and right now we are developing our services so that we can offer families a more sustained level of support across their child's life journey. It is early days in terms of our service development and it is of course dependent on the funds available, but we are keen to ensure we meet the wider needs of children and young people over the longer term.

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***If you give permission on the application form to receive updates from us about our work you will find out more as we move forward.***

### **Wheelchair skills training**

Our Wheelchair Skills Training Programme is one of the ways Whizz-Kidz offers support to young people under the age of 18 on their Life Journey. Training runs across the UK, so if you are applying for a wheelchair, your child will be automatically invited to training if it is running in your area. Training is delivered by skilled and experienced adult wheelchair users, recruited to provide great role models for young people learning to use their wheelchairs.

**For more information about our Wheelchair Skills Training, please call 020 7798 6600 and ask for the Wheelchair Skills Training Department, or go to [www.whizz-kidz.org.uk](http://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk) or email [wheelchairskills@whizz-kidz.org.uk](mailto:wheelchairskills@whizz-kidz.org.uk)**

### **Involving the Kidz**

When a child/ young person receives support from Whizz-Kidz they will be invited to join our UK-wide Ambassador Network. Ambassadors act as representatives for Whizz-Kidz and also benefit from our emerging life skills training programme; other opportunities include Whizz-Kidz work placements, media training, and a chance to attend local Ambassador Clubs.

### **Involving the parents/families**

We're keen that parents become more actively involved too when they are able, particularly in our campaigning work. Your experiences are invaluable in highlighting the need to improve wheelchair provision for children.

### **Website**

Our website offers you the opportunity to join our campaign network and sign up to our parents' discussion forum. This will enable you to share experiences and swap stories with other like minded families, as well as have access to information about equipment and the range of services we offer.

[www.whizz-kidz.org.uk](http://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk)

**Please read all the information we have provided on the application form to help you. If you have any questions or you are having difficulty with the form please contact us, the Children's Services Team, and we will be pleased to help you.**

Yours sincerely,

**Children's Services Team  
Whizz-Kidz, Elliot House,  
10-12 Allington Street,  
London SW1E 5EH**

**Tel 0845 052 1231 (Local rate)**

**Email [kidzservices@whizz-kidz.org.uk](mailto:kidzservices@whizz-kidz.org.uk)**

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