



A Legacy  
worth Leaving

CEREBRA   
Working wonders for children  
with brain conditions

# Thank you for considering us

Our vision is that every family that includes a child with a brain condition will have the chance to discover a better life together. We listen to families that include children with brain conditions and use what they tell us to inspire the best research and innovation.



## A gift in your will helps pave our way

Gifts in wills have helped us do so much, take a look behind the scenes...

The Cerebra Innovation Centre (CIC) designs and builds innovative, bespoke products to help disabled children discover and engage with the world around them. It is a collaborative partnership between Cerebra and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD).

We believe that all children should have the right to have a go at something and have equipment to be proud of, whilst fully taking part and participating in society. The CIC team have designed a lot of equipment that help children with disabilities participate in activities such as surfing, horse riding and even triathlons.



The ethos of CIC is, if they can dream big, they can do big. Never accept it's not possible. The team use this to design around 50 brand new inventions every year, all with the intention to increase independence for the receiving child.

## Meet Amelie



From birth, Amelie was diagnosed with quadriplegia cerebral palsy and faces challenges each day. Her condition has affected all her limbs and her core, but this does not stop her from being as active as possible.

With this in mind, our CIC designed a skateboard which will help Amelie develop her upper body. She lies on the front with a belt support fastened across her lower back and uses her arms to pull herself along. The design is adaptable, meaning it can be extended or shortened depending on Amelie's needs as she grows.

## Meet Arlo



Arlo has a condition called RTD type 3, which affects the nerves in his body causing deafness, muscle weakness and breathing problems. Arlo's mum got in touch as he needed something made for the back of the walker to attach his vent so that it didn't have to be carried, CIC designed a box that fits on the back of his walker to allow him to walk independently.

Dr. Ross Head from CIC explains "Cerebra Innovation Centre helped get Arlo active by developing a small attachment for his ventilator so that he could carry it on his Kaye Walker. The attachment is small and light weight and a fun and sporty design to match Arlo's enthusiasm!"

## Gifts in wills change lives

So many people just like you have committed their support to Cerebra via **Gifts in Wills**, and we are so thankful for their support. These gifts are essential to what it is we strive to do and people's kindness has allowed us to achieve so much over the last 20 years. What legacy will you leave?

Cerebra understands that writing a Will can be complex and overwhelming, which is why we offer a free will writing service. Visit [cerebra.org.uk/freeswill](https://www.cerebra.org.uk/freeswill) to find out more.







## You **will** inspire life-changing research



The Ladders Project is a research study where the team at Aston University are working with the Cerebra Network to develop anxiety interventions for autistic children who use few or no words. It is led by a team of researchers who are passionate about improving the lives and outcomes of children with intellectual disability, autism and rare genetic syndromes, and their families.

It is a 16-week parent-led intervention and was developed in collaboration with parents/carers of autistic children, researchers and clinical professionals. The main aim of the intervention is to reduce anxiety-related avoidance behaviour in children.

Anxiety is known to impact many autistic children but there are few evidence-based interventions that are

suitable for these individuals. Autistic children and their families should not be denied the opportunity to develop personalised strategies to help reduce anxiety.

This inequality with access to support and resources make it difficult for some families to get access to the resources they need, which is why the LADDERS Project website was created. The goal of the website is to reduce such inequalities via disseminating mental health information through an online platform.

Gifts in wills have allowed us to do so much when it comes to research, we have fantastic academic partners who are doing incredible work due to the kindness of people like yourselves.

# You will help ensure we are there for more parents

Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) is a term to replace what was previously referred to as "Munchausen syndrome by proxy". It is a condition where parents or carers create or exaggerate their child's difficulties.

A new research report concerning the frequency and impact of FII allegations was published by our Legal Entitlements and Problem-solving programme (LEaP) at the School of Law, University of Leeds. The report was featured in a Channel 5 News report in 2023.

Allegations of this type can be seen as a severe form of parent carer blame and can have a huge impact on those accused. Parents said that "it was devastating" and they "lost everything". One parent said:

"As a parent and a human being, being accused of such a heinous form of child abuse, has undoubtedly left long-standing, emotional/psychological scars which will remain until the day I die. Just hearing and seeing the words MSBP/FII reignite the trauma and injustice of it all."

## Key Messages emerging from the research report include:

- FII allegations against parents of disabled children appear to be widespread. The research indicates that parents in at least 74% of children's services authorities have experienced FII allegations.
- The major finding of the research is one of family trauma. The making of an allegation often causes devastating and life-long trauma to those accused.
- Disabled parents appear to be four times more likely to be accused of FII than non-disabled parents.
- 50% of allegations of FII reported for this research were made after a parent carer had complained about the actions of the relevant public body.
- The research indicates that NHS practitioners were the source of most FII allegations, followed by schools and then local authority children's services.



With your **will** we can do wonders

# Take a look at how gifts in wills have made an impact:

We rely on gifts in wills, and since 2001 we have been able to help some 50,000 children and their families find a better life together.

Through kind donations, large and small, we are able to make a measurable difference. Just this year, because of people like you, we have continued our research and;

Helped 266 children discover life and have fun with their friends through our Innovation Centre.



Loaned out 1,195 books to fuel children's imaginations and provide parents with the help and information they need



Helped 948 children and families to get a good night's sleep



Given support and guidance to 170 families so they can access the public services they need

Helped children explore their sensory needs by loaning out 250 sensory toys

Offered guidance to over 55,000 families through our downloadable guides



That's why gifts in Wills are so important to us. They allow us to make plans, develop services and find new ways of reaching out to the many thousands of children and families who don't know where to turn.

Our research starts at perinatal, but it doesn't stop there. With your Will, we will continue to drive research and empower children and families to combat the many challenges they face each day. We won't stop until every child living with a brain condition and their family have discovered a better life together.

[cerebra.org.uk/freewill](http://cerebra.org.uk/freewill)

What legacy will you leave?

# Our free will writing service

Writing your will is something that a lot of people tend to delay, but it truly is one of the more important documents you will ever write and sign. Writing your will allows you to instruct what happens to your property, money and personal possessions when you're gone. Once you've written your will, please make sure it remains updated.

Supporters like to leave a gift to Cerebra in their will and this can be for many reasons such as to help support future generations, or they know of a loved one that has received our support. If you decide to leave us a gift, we would love to hear your story, thank you, and keep you up to date with our work. Don't forget to include our name and charity number. Cerebra, 1089812.

Cerebra offers a free will writing service with our partners, [Octopus Legacy](#). Your will can be written on your terms, in your own time.

Online: [octopuslegacy.com/will-writing](https://octopuslegacy.com/will-writing)

Or call 0800 7734014 and quote **CEREBRA** to talk with a solicitor.

As a valued supporter of [Cerebra](#), we want to sincerely thank you for considering to leave us such a special gift.

If you would like a confidential chat, Jessica, our dedicated Legacy Coordinator can be contacted on 07800915889 or [jessica.davies@cerebra.org.uk](mailto:jessica.davies@cerebra.org.uk).



With your **will** we will find a way





Your gift. Your way.  
What a legacy to leave.

[octopuslegacy.com/will-writing](https://octopuslegacy.com/will-writing)

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