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# JUNIOR ESSENTIALS

News, products and events for parents and young people requiring extra support and assistance

## BLIND PREJUDICE?

The charity Blind Children UK has published a study suggesting that children with sight loss are encountering significant levels of prejudice among their peers – and even from adults. The charity's *'Parents and the playground'* report found that 43% of children with a visual impairment have experienced bullying directly related to their condition, and that 86% have been excluded from peer activities on the same basis.

The study went on to note that 35% of respondents reported being left out of activities and events by other children's parents and guardians, and that 45% of parents with sighted children admitted not feeling comfortable inviting a blind or partially sighted child to a play date or party without said child's parent or guardian being present.

According to Blind Children UK CEO Richard Leaman, "This lack of social understanding and acceptance causes feelings of isolation and loneliness, and our research suggests parents' discomfort around children with sight loss may cascade down to the next generation."

The report can be seen in full via [tinyurl.com/parents-and-the-playground](http://tinyurl.com/parents-and-the-playground) [PDF]; for more information, visit [www.blindchildrenuk.org](http://www.blindchildrenuk.org)



## Jenx Multistander

Jiraffe is now supplying a new addition to Jenx's Multistander range. Produced following feedback from therapists and users in the US and UK, the white-framed model is suitable for children aged from nine months to six years, and features an upgraded knee block that can be easily adjusted and fine-tuned to users' requirements, whether standing in prone, supine or upright.

The new Multistander is available to order now, and can be optionally specified in blue, red, pink, lime or neutral board colour finishes.

For more information, visit [www.jiraffe.org.uk](http://www.jiraffe.org.uk)



## Dynamic Movement Orthotics

DM Orthotics' range of elastomeric orthoses aid in the management of neurological and musculoskeletal conditions such as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, stroke and scoliosis. Used to help improve posture, movement control and overall function, they operate via a system of Lycra panels that work together to re-align the body. Once positioned appropriately, the body's neurosensory system is re-trained by the brain and muscles learn to be used in their new, optimal state.

The compression provided by the close-fitting Lycra creates increased proprioception (the sense of how one's body is positioned) and helps improve muscle tone. Instead of the strictly positional support provided by rigid bracing, the use of Lycra allows for a more dynamic range of movement that encourages muscle use and offers greater independence for users.

For more information, contact 01772 793 681 or visit [www.safeplaycentre.co.uk](http://www.safeplaycentre.co.uk)



## FORBRAIN

It may look like a standard communications headset at first glance, but the Forbrain is actually a device that can create an audio-vocal loop – a tool often used in speech therapy sessions that enables someone to hear their own voice as it actually sounds, rather than resonating through their skull.

The Forbrain is the first device of its kind specifically designed to make audio-vocal loops available to home users for practice purposes. Aimed at children and adults with language delays and speech difficulties, it makes use of transducers positioned atop facial bones just outside the ears and an electronic audio filter to help wearers work on their pronunciation, articulation and fluency for a few minutes at a time. For more information, visit [www.forbrain.com](http://www.forbrain.com)

