











Communicating the diagnosis of cerebral palsy or high risk of cerebral palsy

Parents experience grief and loss at the time of diagnosis or 'high-risk' notification, and therefore communication with a family should be a series of well-planned and compassionate conversations.

Communication should:

-  Be face-to-face. Provide at least two face to face diagnostic information sharing sessions to facilitate comprehension, recall and acceptance.
-  Have both parents or caregivers present (where appropriate).
-  Be private.
-  Be honest and jargon free. Provide honest, transparent and specific information about the diagnosis and prognosis as possible and explain the likely impact on the family.
-  Be tailored to the family.
-  Be followed by written information.
-  Include recommendations to use parent-to-parent support and arrangement of early intervention.
-  Include identification of strengths as well as limitations, to promote development of an optimistic outcome.
-  Include invitation to ask questions.
-  Allow for discussion of feelings and arrangement for a debriefing to help parents gather information and navigate service entry.