



# Cerebral Palsy

OPTIMIZING THE POTENTIAL FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

By La Rabida Children's Hospital – The Chronic Illness Experts | [www.larabida.org](http://www.larabida.org)

## Caused By Damage to a Developing Brain

Cerebral palsy is a term that describes a group of disorders that hinder the body's control of movement. It results from brain damage and can not be cured.

The brain damage can occur before, during or after birth, resulting from injuries, infections, physical trauma, and/or severe hydration. Other contributing factors include severe jaundice in the infant, Rh incompatibility between mother and infant, and oxygen deprivation during labor and delivery. Although the brain damage does not worsen, the symptoms of the condition often change over time. The number and severity of symptoms may increase or decline.

Cerebral palsy is sometimes present in children who have physical birth defects, experienced seizures shortly after birth, received an Apgar score of 2 or less or whose mothers experienced bleeding or excess protein in their urine during the third trimester of pregnancy.

### TYPICALLY DIAGNOSED IN TODDLERS

Cerebral palsy is usually detectable by the age of 2 or 3. The range of symptoms and their severity are unique to each child. Some may exhibit few and mild symptoms and live as self reliant adults; others may require lifelong caregiver assistance.

Children with cerebral palsy often have difficulty or are delayed in sitting up, rolling over, standing and walking. Holding a bottle or a spoon may also be difficult. Drooling is a common symptom as are difficulties with chewing, swallowing, and talking. Sometimes children with cerebral palsy have impaired hearing or esotropia, crossing of the eyes.

Some of the symptoms associated with cerebral palsy may be treated with therapies, medication, equipment and/or surgery. A variety of factors influence the intervention's success in diminishing the severity of a problem or improving function such as walking or speaking.

### MANAGING YOUR CHILD'S CARE

Tending to the needs of a child with cerebral palsy can affect the whole family. To meet the child's daily living requirements can be both challenging and time consuming.

Parents are the first line of defense for children with cerebral palsy. Timely access to medical care, therapists and other services can positively enhance their child's quality of life, now and in the years ahead. Teaming with pediatric experts including physicians, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, nurses, cases and social workers will help ensure the child with cerebral palsy and their caregivers access the resources required to optimize the child's future.

## CHOOSE A PEDIATRIC EXPERT

There is no substitute for pediatric medical providers who know how to manage a child's lifelong medical condition. Understanding the mind, body and spirit of the child with cerebral palsy is essential in helping the child achieve his or her personal best at home, school and beyond.

### A TEAM APPROACH TO CEREBRAL PALSY

Decades of experience informs La Rabida Children's Hospital's approach to addressing the effects of cerebral palsy. No patient condition, no family situation is identical. That's why we custom craft a treatment plan for each child we serve.

Our pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists, pediatric therapists – physical, occupational and speech – and infant development specialists work together and collaborate with a case manager, social worker and, when necessary, a child psychologist to care for the child and support the family. We work closely with private and public institutions including social agencies, schools and other medical providers to ensure the child has access to required resources.

To make an appointment, call **773.753.8626**. Public and most private insurance is accepted. A referral from a primary care physician may be required for some services.



# La Rabida Children's Hospital



A specialty hospital for children with chronic illness and developmental disabilities.

## About La Rabida

La Rabida is a resource upon which Chicago's families have depended since 1896. Our mission to provide care to children with lifelong medical conditions regardless of their family's ability to pay has been unwavering.

Today, La Rabida serves approximately 9,000 children annually who require primary and specialty care to address complex and challenging medical conditions. Services and programs include treatment for chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes, and sickle cell disease, and developmental disabilities. In addition, La Rabida specializes in the treatment of children who have been abused, neglected or experienced trauma.

Under one roof, La Rabida offers access to board-certified pediatricians and specialty physicians, behavioral science professionals, advance practice nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech pathologists, dieticians, case managers and social workers. All have dedicated their careers to pediatric health care and are committed to our philosophy of care.

La Rabida is a recognized leader in its treatment of chronic disease, disabilities, abuse and trauma and works closely with leading institutions who refer patients for specialty care. It attracts high caliber health care professionals for the many career and training opportunities it offers. It is affiliated with Children's Memorial Hospital and the University of Chicago.

We are blessed with a magnificent Lakeside location just minutes from the heart of downtown Chicago. Our facility is designed to show off its spectacular views and inspire hope for every child and family who crosses our threshold.

Visit [www.larabida.org](http://www.larabida.org). You will come to understand why La Rabida is so special.

### COORDINATES AND CONTACTS

La Rabida Children's Hospital is located on Lake Michigan, directly east of Jackson Harbor, a mile south of the Museum of Science and Industry. To Mapquest directions, input 6501 S. Promontory Drive, Chicago, IL 60649 as the address.

General inquiries: 773.363.6700. To make an appointment, call 773.753.8626

## La Rabida's Resources for Cerebral Palsy

Living with cerebral palsy is a journey. La Rabida is an experienced guide.

We deliver primary and specialty care for children with cerebral palsy through interdisciplinary teams. Our pediatricians specialize in chronic illness. Our sub specialists include a physiatrist, orthopedic surgeon and neurologist. Other team members – all pediatric professionals – include physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and infant development specialists, child psychologists, social workers, nurses, case managers and dieticians.

We provide a variety of medical therapies and interventions, including botulinum toxin therapy, intrathecal baclofen pump therapy, orthopedic surgery and serial casting. Rehabilitation services include post-operative intensive inpatient therapy and one-on-one and group outpatient therapy.

La Rabida's oral motor and feeding, orthotic, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and spasticity management clinics each address specific needs and issues. The adaptive seating and car seat safety clinics help ensure the child's safety and the proper use of wheelchairs, adaptive strollers and car seats.

CHECK-OUT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LA RABIDA'S CEREBRAL PALSY PROGRAM. | [WWW.LARABIDA.ORG](http://WWW.LARABIDA.ORG)