

Camp Simcha Special Care babies leaflet



**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE
FOR SERIOUSLY
ILL CHILDREN**

Camp Simcha is here for families coping with a wide range of serious and life-changing childhood illnesses - over 50 different conditions. We also provide support for families coping with babies born at term with serious and life-changing complications or conditions, as well as short-term help when babies are born prematurely or with a serious health issue.



"Camp Simcha can really make a big difference at this difficult time. Having a premature or seriously ill newborn is very scary for parents - especially if it is their first child - and when there are young siblings it can be very stressful to maintain normality for them," explains Family Liaison Officer Natalie Meyer who co-ordinates our premature baby support service.

"This dedicated short-term service aims to cover all the ways we can help to support parents through this difficult period and in those first weeks returning home."

The service includes:

- Family Liaison Officer to provide support and to facilitate all the services we provide
- Hospital transports
- Food for mum while she is at hospital
- Food for the rest of the family at home
- Babysitting for younger children while parents are at the hospital
- Mums' bag filled with necessities, toiletries and some treats for the hospital
- High specification breast pump for mums who are wanting to express if baby cannot feed
- Freezer space for expressed milk
- Welcome home balloons and treats for siblings when baby comes home
- Our experienced neo-natal nurse Caroline Dux who will meet parents while in hospital and support them in the first few weeks when they go home



“The service, like so much Camp Simcha does, is tailor-made to each family and their needs. Most importantly I am there to bridge that gap when a family leaves hospital. Having a very premature baby is very different to a full-term newborn, in terms of feeding, sleeping, etc. This can be very isolating for new parents.” Caroline

Quotes from parents

“Camp Simcha sent meals in regularly which gave me some respite from trying to juggle that with all the to-ing and fro-ing the hospital as I was going there twice a day. Once a week I knew I had a healthy meal for us all!”

“When we finally got our son out of hospital, some six months after his birth, he was still on oxygen... Caroline helped us get comfortable with what we needed to do and she was also there to answer all our questions and give us information about feeding and other things to consider with a premature baby.”

Who can we help?

- **Premature babies (born at 36 weeks or less)** who require special or intensive care for more than just a few days
- Babies requiring Neonatal care for other reasons, including severe infections and respiratory support including ventilation.
- Babies with issues regarding nutrition such as requiring enteral feeds on discharge.

We also support children up to 18 years with other medical conditions such as Type-1 diabetes, genetic disorders (cystic fibrosis, Tay Sachs), serious surgery and cancer/leukaemia.

For more information, in complete confidence, please contact Joanne Woolich - Hospital Outreach Coordinator: aware@campsimcha.org.uk or 07943 831778