

# HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE DIABETES TYPE 1



**MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE  
FOR SERIOUSLY  
ILL CHILDREN**

# WHAT WE DO

**Camp Simcha makes a difference by bringing hope, joy and practical support to Jewish families devastated by serious childhood illness.**

Our mission is to ensure that no such child or their family anywhere in the UK has to cope without our support.

*This information leaflet is for Diabetes Type 1 only. For other conditions, please refer to our general information leaflet.*



# MIA BRADLEY'S SON JACK WAS SEVEN WHEN HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES.

"We came home from hospital after he had been diagnosed, armed with books and equipment, feeling scared and alone."

"Even though you know you are not the only one, it doesn't feel like that, but the minute Camp Simcha came into our lives we didn't feel alone any more. Not only did we have an amazing FLO, who I could just talk to whenever I needed, but it also enabled us to meet other parents in the same situation."

"Now I feel there are so many people I can turn to. With the support group, you can have a situation where you don't know what to do and usually another parent will have a suggestion."

Mia, Jack's mum

*For more personal stories, please visit [campsimcha.org.uk/stories](https://campsimcha.org.uk/stories)*

## DIABETES TYPE 1

# WHO WE SUPPORT

**We currently help children who are newly diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes to help them find their way through the overwhelming confusion of the diagnosis.**

We are here for everyone in the family, supporting people across the spectrum of religious observance. Support is generally provided for one year. Just one parent needs to be Jewish.

# HOW WE SUPPORT

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Camp Simcha offers a bespoke package of care to more than 1,200 family members across the UK and reaches another 12,000 children through our hospital outreach programme.

## OUR SERVICES

A list of our most popular services are listed under **SOME SERVICES WE OFFER.**

**We are there for parents whenever they need us.**

Our trained Family Liaison Officers (FLOs) build a relationship with parents designed to identify and respond to their needs in a relaxed, informal and personal way.

**Each year our 13 FLOs provide 10,000 hours of care.**

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**[The Play Therapist] made such a difference. She is a lot calmer and more accepting since the sessions. Of course, she still doesn't like the injections – she wriggles and needs distracting with the Ipad but she is so much less distressed.**

## FAMILY SUPPORT



Camp Simcha's practical support services help reduce the strain on a family when they are having to juggle multiple hospital appointments with new domestic regimes, enabling them to maintain a sense of normality at home.

For more details, refer to [SOME SERVICES WE OFFER](#).

## THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT

Whether it's through counselling or therapeutic activities such as our popular art sessions, we find a way to help each member of the family to process the emotions they are struggling with.

For more details, refer to [SOME SERVICES WE OFFER](#).

## EVENTS AND OUTINGS

We believe that tomorrow's treat should be more important to our children than today's treatment.

Bringing fun and laughter to children dealing with serious illness and their siblings, makes a huge difference and can give them strength to face the daily challenges ahead. These services are delivered with the support of our specially trained Camp Simcha volunteer "Big Brothers and Sisters" who bring fun and laughter to children.



# SUPPORT GROUPS

**When parents are facing a new diagnosis that seemingly comes out of the blue, only other parents going through something similar can understand how that feels.**

Our support group for parents of children with Diabetes was set up to offer them a place to share their experiences, in a safe and supportive environment.

Our founder and Head of Family Liaison, Rachely Plancey comments: "With Type 1 Diabetes we find the same issues and questions arise – from brands of pumps to the impact of hormone changes to things like how travel affects their levels.

As well as regular meetings, the families have a WhatsApp group which is a great way for parents to constantly connect with each other"

We also run art support groups for siblings to give them a space to share their feelings.



# COMMUNITY

**We bring smiles to seriously ill children in hospitals, regardless of faith.**

We deliver Camp Simcha balloons and monkeys throughout the year and seasonal gifts to over 10,000 children in 120 hospital wards during our annual Toy Drive.

We run training to ensure that hospital staff are aware of Jewish practice and traditions.

Our health awareness evenings are designed to educate the community about childhood illness.



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**As a parent the worry has been constant, but even worse for Eliana, she just wants to be a ‘normal’ ten-year-old girl and she feels frustrated by the intrusion of Diabetes in her life. Camp Simcha’s support has really helped. Eliana adores her wonderful volunteer ‘Big Sister’ and she loves going on Camp Simcha outings and to parties. She also went on the Winter children’s retreat, which was a real break for my husband and I because the worry is constant.**

## **SOME SERVICES WE OFFER**

### **FAMILY SUPPORT**

Respite care  
Hospital transport  
Home school tuition  
Family Liaison Officers  
Benefits and grants advice  
Specialist equipment  
Crisis household support  
Big Brothers and Big Sisters

### **THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT**

Counselling  
Art, music & drama  
Pet assisted therapy  
Play Therapy

### **EVENTS & OUTINGS**

Children's retreats  
Summer experiences  
Outings & parties

### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

Support for siblings  
Support for parents

### **COMMUNITY**

Hospital support  
School support  
Toy Drive  
Health information events

**To get in touch with us regarding  
a referral, please contact  
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in the strictest confidence.**

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