



**Record Breakers** is a research report about the information local authorities have about disabled children and young people in their area and the services they use.



The Disabled Children's Partnership did the research.



The Disabled Children's Partnership is a group of more than 120 organisations that campaign for disabled children and their families.



Parents of disabled children from black and Asian backgrounds worked as researchers on the project. They were known as parent-researchers.



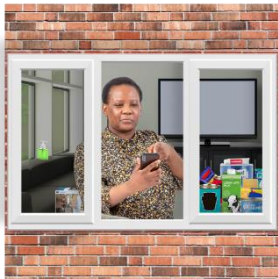
They wanted to know more about **short breaks** for disabled children from black, Asian and mixed ethnicity.



**Short breaks** are when disabled children spend time away from their parents, taking part in activities with other disabled children.



**Short break** activities can help disabled children to make friends and try new hobbies.



**Short breaks** give parents a rest from caring for their disabled children – this is sometimes called respite care.



The law says that local authorities should have a list (called a register) of the number of disabled children in their area.



Local authorities should have information about short breaks on their websites for families to read.



Parent-researchers wrote to 154 local authorities and asked how many disabled children and young people were in their area.

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99 local authorities wrote back.

30

30 local authorities said they could not give us any information about short breaks because they do not keep all of the information in one place.



1 in 3 local authorities said they do not have a list of disabled children even though the Law says they should.



1 in 5 local authorities could not tell us how many disabled children used short breaks.



Only 11 local authorities could tell us the ethnicity of disabled children using short breaks.



1 in 2 local authorities could not tell us the age of disabled children using short breaks.



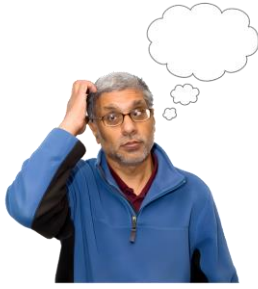
Only 1 in 3 local authorities can provide short breaks that meet cultural needs of disabled children.



The answers mean that local authorities are unable to meet disabled children's needs, as they do not have the information about them.



Parent-researchers also looked at short break websites to check if families can get the information they need.



1 in 4 local authorities did not have information about how to apply for short breaks on their website.



2 in 5 local authorities did not have contact details for somebody in charge of short breaks on their website.



3 in 10 local authorities did not have an option to change the language on their short breaks website.



The Disabled Children's Partnership want the government to:



Check the information on local authority registers of disabled children and take action with those who are breaking the law.



Work with local authorities to make sure they have better information about disabled children in their areas.

