

Introduction

Getting the news that your child has haemophilia can be very difficult. A thousand thoughts and feelings needing to be acknowledged. It may feel as though everything is out of control and there seems to be so much to learn - and it's hard to believe it's true. Many people say they just want to get it together in their head.

Your child can look forward to a rich and productive life doing almost anything he chooses. There is very little he will not be able to do.

Your child is just as adorable, playful, mischievous, amusing, cuddly, and noisy as before diagnosis. Don't be afraid to cuddle, touch or play with your child. He needs normality as well as appropriate treatment for his haemophilia.

If you have family members with haemophilia and are already familiar with haemophilia, you may be concerned that your child will have experiences similar to other family members. Fortunately haemophilia care has progressed considerably over the past few years and may be different from what you remember.

We hope this book will make this time a little easier, give you a better understanding of haemophilia in today's world and foster a positive and realistic approach to haemophilia.

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*"I had no idea
Darcy had
haemophilia.
No one else in our
family has it. It
was a real shock."*

*"I suspected Alex
had haemophilia
from the start."*

*"I saw what my
uncle went
through. I'm
worried about
what my son will
go through."*

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Gender references

Children with haemophilia are referred to as male in this guide. This decision was made to make reading easier and because people with haemophilia are predominantly male. It is extremely rare for a female to have haemophilia, although it does occasionally happen.

The information in this guide is relevant to females with haemophilia. Chapter 2, page 6 discusses females with haemophilia. Haemophilia Foundation Australia (HFA) also has information specifically for females with bleeding disorders. For more information phone HFA on freecall 1800 807 173 or visit the web site www.haemophilia.org.au.

Disclaimer

This folder is intended to provide general information only and does not replace individual medical advice from a qualified health professional. The information was accurate at the time of printing.

If you have questions about the information in this folder, please see your doctor, Haemophilia Centre or Haemophilia Foundation.

Haemophilia Foundation Australia does not practise medicine. For medical advice, please contact your doctor or Haemophilia Centre.

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