



understanding frames

Survey 1 Results

Professionals

The information below is a summary of 460 professionals' experiences of working with standing frames and children who have cerebral palsy (CP).

Experience with standing frames

- Most participants were physiotherapists, but occupational therapists, paediatricians, educational professionals, and therapy assistants also completed the survey.
- They worked in education centres, homes, and clinics in hospitals or the community.
- Most had more than ten years' experience working with children who use standing frames.
- Despite limited evidence or written guidance for standing frame use; most professionals advised similar standing frame use.

Standing frame challenges

- Challenges associated with standing frames included space, funding, and availability of people to help position the child.

Parents

The information below is a summary of 91 parents' experiences as related to standing frames and their child who has CP.

Standing frame use

- Most children began using a standing frame at 3 years of age.
- Some children were no longer using a standing frame. They generally stopped using a standing frame between 9 and 10 years of age.
- It tends to be a physiotherapist who assesses, fits, and monitors the child's standing frame.
- Children were generally advised by their health professional to use a standing frame every day for between 30-60 minutes. Many families find it difficult to manage this.

Standing frame challenges

- Challenges associated with standing frames included time, space, the child wanting a rest from therapy, and the child disliking the standing frame.
- Families need more support at home, including having enough carers to position their child and funding for a standing frame at home and at school.

Professionals and parents suggested that standing frames were useful for:

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| • Bladder and bowel functions | • A change of position | • Motor abilities | • Breathing |
| • Reducing risk of hip dislocation | • Participation in activities | • Communication | • Bone density |
| • Reducing risk of contractures | • Activity enjoyment | • Peer interaction | • Vision |

There is limited evidence regarding benefits of standing frames. More research is required.

If you have any questions or are interested in participating in the next stages of the project, please contact:

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