



Rainbow Trust
CHILDREN'S CHARITY



Family centred care for children with
a life threatening or terminal illness

Welcome

Rainbow Trust

CHILDREN'S CHARITY

www.rainbowtrust.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1070532

about Rainbow Trust



what we do

Rainbow Trust provides respite care and support at home to children with a life threatening or terminal illness and their families. Immediate help is on hand through our seven teams of Family Support Workers and at our two respite houses.

Children with life threatening or terminal conditions very often prefer to be cared for in their own homes, but caring for a sick child can be stressful and demanding.

Rainbow Trust understands that when a child is very ill all members of the family are affected, especially brothers and sisters.

“Our appreciation cannot be expressed in words, only that our time with our children is priceless.” Jack's mum

how we do it

Rainbow Trust's Family Support Worker Teams offer practical and emotional help in the family's own home. Family Support Workers help with the normal activities of daily life such as household chores, as well as transport to, and support with, endless hospital visits. They are also on hand to provide a listening ear to anxious parents, sick children and worried siblings.

Rainbow Trust has two respite centres; Rainbow House in Great Bookham, Surrey and Rainbow Fernstone in Hexham, Northumberland. Both houses are carefully designed to cater for the needs of families under stress and are staffed by trained Respite Workers to provide the care that families need.

Up to six families can stay at any one time. They can relax in welcoming and supportive surroundings away from the pressures of living with a very sick child at home. Our aim is to respond to the needs of the whole family and we are also sensitive to individual needs of family members.

Families in crisis can contact Rainbow Trust 24 hours a day through our telephone helpline.

“It was good to have time together as a family. We have been separated for nine months and this was a chance for us to bond together again.” Kelly's mum

“When we were told that there wasn’t any hope left for our little girl, Amy, we decided to bring her home and one of the Rainbow Trust Family Support Workers came to our house and spent time with her and was with us the night she died.”
Amy’s mother, Theresa Jackson



why we do it

Rainbow Trust Children’s Charity was founded by Bernadette Cleary OBE after her own experience of providing practical and emotional support to a neighbouring family whose 12 year old daughter died of cancer. After realising that there were many families who had a child with a life threatening or terminal illness, for whom this practical support was so vital, Bernadette established Rainbow Trust Children’s Charity in 1986.

Rainbow Trust now supports up to 1,000 families every year, but we know that at any one time there are 10,000 families in England who have a child diagnosed with a life threatening or terminal illness.

We can be contacted at any stage of a child’s illness, from diagnosis, during treatment and throughout recovery or post bereavement. Very importantly, there is no time limit to the care we provide. We will stay with a family until they feel they can cope without our support, sometimes for several years after their child has died.

Care is provided to families, irrespective of circumstance, ethnicity, social background, nationality or religion. Those who need us most are often socially disadvantaged and many are single parent families with little or no extended family support network.

how you are helping

We rely entirely on voluntary donations to maintain our unique service. Your regular donations by direct debit are greatly appreciated. Knowing that we can rely on your regular income ensures we can plan for the support of families who have a child with a life threatening or terminal illness, both now and in the future,

If you would like to find out more about Rainbow Trust simply visit our website www.rainbowtrust.org.uk or telephone us on 01372 363438 - we would love to hear from you.

“People might think you get over the death of a child, the reality is that hopefully, you merely find a way through. Rainbow Trust helped us to do that.” Mia’s dad

make a donation, make a difference

how your donation makes a difference

£10 pays for an art and craft session, providing a child with a creative method of expressing their emotions.

£20 pays for a Family Support Worker to sit with a sick child in hospital - a friendly face and welcome distraction from treatments for the child and a much needed break for parents.

£40 pays for an average meal time at one of our houses, where up to three families can stay. Meal time is a focal point of a family's stay; we cook homemade, wholesome meals to be enjoyed around a huge kitchen table. Caring for a sick child can make family meal times a rare occurrence at home.

£75 pays for a sick child to enjoy a magical 24 hour stay at one of our respite houses. Other than hospital stays it's rare that the children we care for can experience a night away from home because their needs are so complex.

£150 pays for a Family Support Worker to provide one-to-one support to worried siblings by taking them on a day trip.

£500 keeps our 24 hour telephone helpline open for a month, ensuring that families can contact us at any time for support.

contact us today

Rainbow Trust Children's Charity

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