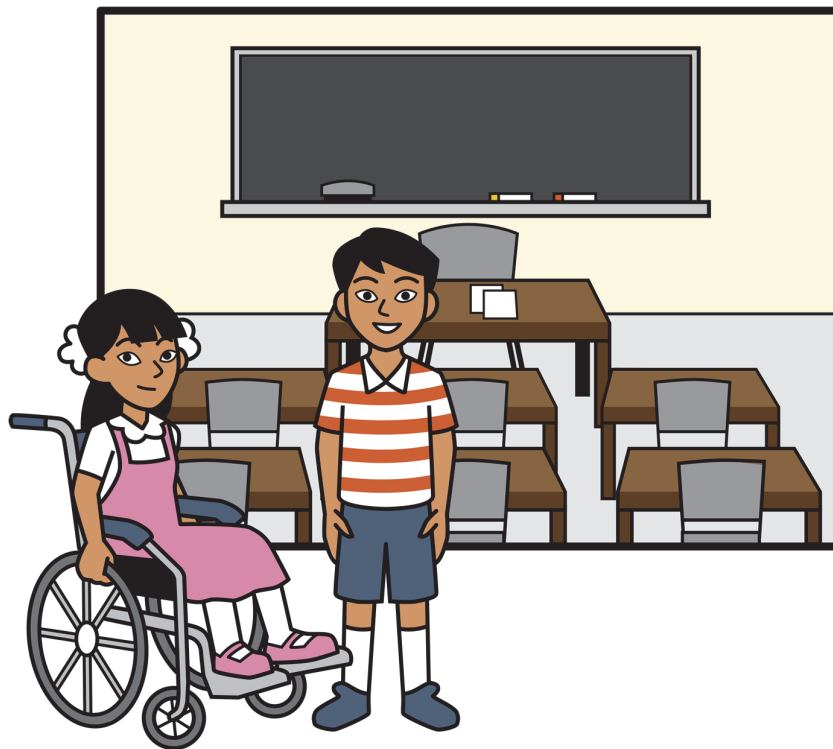


Education for children with disabilities in Kazakhstan



On the Margins. Education for Children with Disabilities in Kazakhstan.



About us

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

We are called Human Rights Watch.



We work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

About this report

Kazakhstan



This report is about children with disabilities in a country called Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is in Central Asia.



This report is about problems with education for children with disabilities in Kazakhstan.



In 2017 and 2018 we spoke to some people in Kazakhstan to find out what was happening.

For example, we spoke to:

- Children with disabilities and their families
- People who support the rights of people with disabilities
- People from the government



We went to some schools and places like hospitals where some children with disabilities live.

What is education like for children with disabilities in Kazakhstan?



Going to school with other children

Only a few children with disabilities get a good education in the same classrooms as children without disabilities.



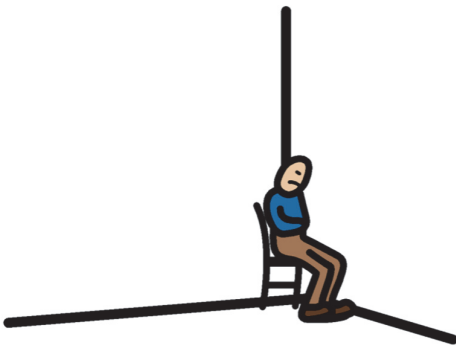
Many children with disabilities have to learn at home.

They may never get the chance to go to school.

Learning at home can be bad for children with disabilities:

For example:

- Many children with disabilities at home cannot spend time with other children
- They may learn less at home than at school
- Teachers may only visit them a few times a week or month



Other children go to special schools only for children with disabilities.

The schools may be far away from their families and where they live.

Some children may have to live at the schools.



Children with disabilities in special schools may not learn the same things as children in other schools.



This means that children with disabilities who learn in special schools or at home can find it hard to:

- Take exams and go to university like other children
- Get a job and have a good life



Some children with disabilities live in places that are like hospitals.

They may get no education at all.



Some children with disabilities go to school with children without disabilities.

But many children with disabilities have to learn in different classrooms.

The right support to learn and do well



Children with disabilities at school may need different types of support.

For example, a child with disabilities may need:

- Information in a way they can understand.

For example, in sign language or easy words with pictures



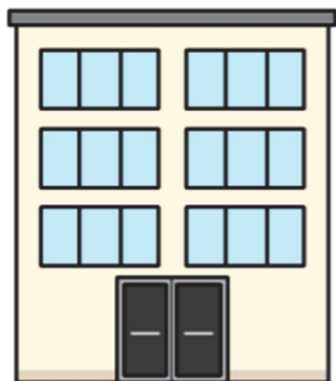
- More time to learn a subject or take exams

- Someone in the classroom to help them learn or communicate



Many children with disabilities do not get the support they need to learn and do well.

Other problems in schools



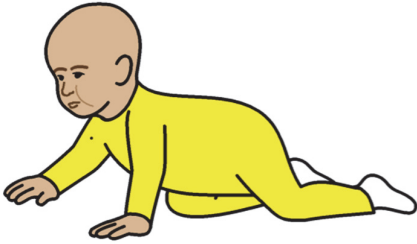
There may be other problems in schools

For example:

- School buildings and classrooms may be hard for children with disabilities to enter and move around in
- Toilets may be hard for children with disabilities to use
- Teachers may not have the right training to support children with disabilities



Support for young children with Disabilities



Children with disabilities should start to get the right support when they are very young.

This can help them do well later.



But many families find it hard to get the support and information they need.

Deciding where children with disabilities should learn



Children with disabilities and their families have a meeting with a doctor and other people about their education.



The people decide where children with disabilities should learn.

For example, at school, at special school, or at home.



This means that children with disabilities and their parents do not get a choice about where they learn.

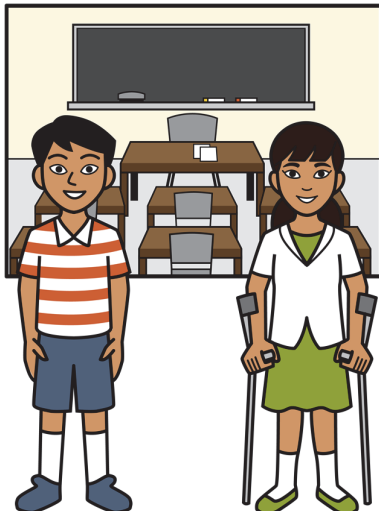


Some schools may also say no to children with disabilities.

They may say that teachers cannot support their child or that the child cannot learn.

What we want to happen

The government of Kazakhstan should make sure that:



- Children with disabilities get a good education in the same schools and classrooms as children without disabilities

This is called **inclusive education**.

Their schools should be near where they live.

The government should also:



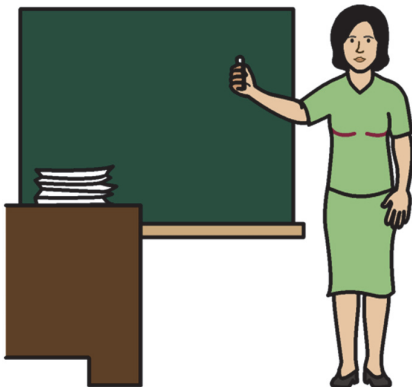
- Make sure that children with disabilities get the support they need to learn and do well at school.

The support may be different for each child with disabilities.

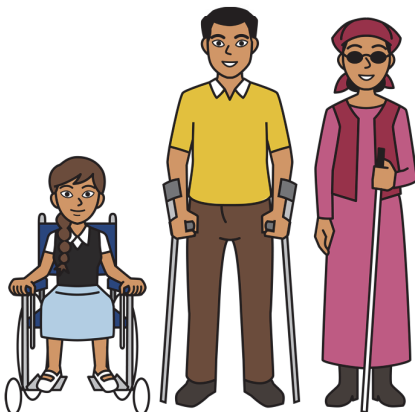


- Make sure there is good information, rules, and training for teachers.

This will help them know how to teach children with different disabilities in the right way for them.



- Make sure there are enough teachers and staff with the right training to do this.



- Help schools and other people know how to support children with disabilities and what their education rights are.



- Make sure people with disabilities and parents are part of this work.

Children with disabilities and their families should have a meeting to decide about their education.

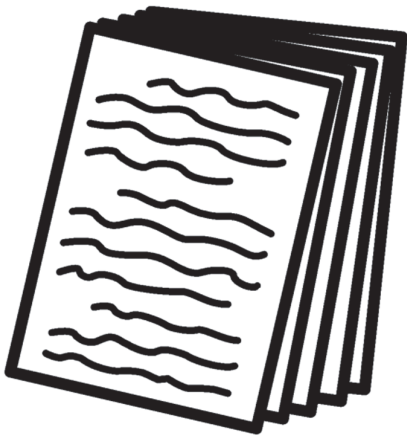
The meeting should include:

- Teachers
- Doctors
- Other people who know the child well



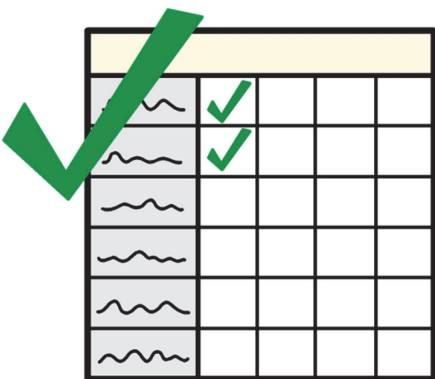
The meeting should only decide what support the child will get in school.

Not stop the child from going to school.



There are some important documents about the rights of children and about the rights of people with disabilities.

The government in Kazakhstan has promised to do what the documents say.



The government has started work to make inclusive education happen.

But the government needs to do much more.



Organizations around the world can help the government in Kazakhstan with this work.



For example, by giving money and support.

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