

TOP TIPS

For working with Children and Young People with a disability



Aleesha is a valued and enthusiastic member of the FJYPB. She has ambitions of becoming a Family Law Barrister and a British wheelchair tennis paralympian. Aleesha has cerebral palsy which affects her muscles, balance and co-ordination on her right side.

From her experience of working with various professionals Aleesha has produced a series of TOP TIPS for family justice practitioners working with children and young people with disabilities.

1

- Respect me and my disability.

2

- See me for what I can do, not what I can't do.

3

- Educate yourself about my disability.

4

- Ask me questions about my disability and how it affects me.

5

- Adapt your working style to suit my needs. (For example, I have cerebral palsy which affects my right side. I can draw pictures with my left hand but you have to allow me time to do this properly - I can do most things as long as I have support.)

6

- Be creative with the tools you use with me.

7

- Do not make assumptions about me.

8

- Do not talk about me and do not talk down to me.

9

- Speak in simple language and always listen to me.

10

- Always Include me.