

TOP 10

So, your **baby** has a disorder of the corpus callosum?
Please check out these 10 top tips.

1 NOBODY CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE. No-one can predict what your child's journey will be. While it is very important to have input from your medical and therapy team, even they can't tell you exactly how *your* child will develop. You will all travel together.

2 WAITING IS CHALLENGING. The time after diagnosis and in the early years can be a great challenge while you wait to see how your baby develops. The unknown and uncertainty is hard. You will know more with time.

2 BUILD A GOOD TEAM. Ensure you have a good relationship with your medical team, especially your GP, paediatrician and maternal health nurse, who can help you to coordinate your baby's care. If you feel they are not listening to your concerns, don't be afraid to pursue a second opinion.

4 EARLY INTERVENTION. Your baby may re-write the schedule for developmental milestones. Linking with Early Intervention services for support helps all babies to maximise brain development. NDIS supports may be also an option to explore.

5 REPETITION. Disorders of the corpus callosum impact different people in different ways. Processing speed may be impacted. Repetition significantly helps learning. If at first if they don't succeed try, try and try again (and then some!).

6 BE INVOLVED. Participate, be active, get involved. Don't feel that you can't do something because your child may be developing at their own speed. Don't compare your child with others. (That's a tricky one!) Find like minded people and groups.

7 SUPPORT. Join AusDoCC. Join social media groups, where you will find other families with children with a DCC and adults with a DCC and who can offer peer based understanding and moral support.

8 PARENTING. Parenting can be a tough gig, even without the challenges of a rare condition. The pressure of perfect parenting is unrealistic. There is no one way to be a perfect parent but thousands of ways to be a really good one. There may be tough days. Be sure to look after yourself and find support when you need it.

9 BE KIND TO YOURSELF. Just know, you did nothing wrong. Let go of any guilt or blame. Be kind to yourself, find the joy in your child and family. It's an amazing journey and the love you have for your child will exceed anything you could imagine.

10 ENJOY YOUR BABY. Above all, enjoy your baby and celebrate their inchstones. Their babyhood passes so quickly. According to many adults with ACC, pets and music are the secret accessories for success.