

TOP 10

So, your **primary school kid** has a disorder of the corpus callosum?
Try these **Ten Top Tips**.

1 CARER SUPPORT: Contact support groups like AusDoCC to find like minded people and accurate information. Research the resources and choose supports that may be helpful for your child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs.

2 ADVOCACY: For the important meetings with medical professionals, schools and support agencies, take someone with you. A professional/peer advocate, therapist, close friend or family member, who knows your child, can guide and support you when emotions run high.

3 SELF ADVOCACY: Tell your child earlier rather than later about their diagnosis. Books like 'ACC and Me' are a fantastic way to introduce the diagnosis of ACC to your child and to their teachers. As a parent, try to access peer support trainings for effective self-advocacy.

4 BUILDING CONFIDENCE: A child's identity, confidence and self efficacy can be affected by things they are struggling with, such as being bullied, feeling different, or lacking friends. Encourage your child to adopt responsibilities in their home and life for things that they can do and are good at. This brings about a sense of control in their lives. When they know their strengths it is easier to see how problems can be overcome.

5 EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT: If your child needs extra support from an educational assistant at school, don't be afraid of pursuing this with the school. Put together a resource pack to give to your child's teacher to help the school understand your child better. This will need to be updated with every new school year. The AusDoCC website has some resources to use in conjunction with reports from allied health professionals. Give quality not quantity.

6 COMMUNICATION: Keep the lines of communication open between yourself and teaching staff. They can be your best ally. Clear communication with all medical professionals is vital. Write down the questions you have before the appointments so that you can get the most out of appointments. Write answers too so you can remember them.

7 THERAPY: Schools vary in their approach to working with therapy providers. If your child needs therapeutical interventions, some sessions at school involving social and emotional strategies can often be very beneficial. Have the therapist conduct case conferences regularly with yourself and the school. Register with NDIS for funding supports. Build your knowledge about which needs are expected to be met by school and which can be funded by the NDIS. It can be a fine line. You are your child's best advocate.

8 SOCIAL SUPPORT: Support your child to find his/her tribe. This may include a good friend or groups of friends who understand and like your child for who they are. This may mean finding inclusive groups and activities outside of school.

9 AIM HIGH: Set the bar high. Our kids might need to do things differently or take time getting there but there is nothing more limiting than a limited imagination. Just go for it!

10 ENJOY: Take time out to have fun – kids with alternative needs are still kids first