We have written a report based on what everyone has told us. This will be sent to doctors, nurses, psychologists, teachers and other professionals who look after children and teenagers with MS. We hope it will help people to understand what life is like for children and teenagers with MS and how to help them and their families in the best way.

This study was carried out by Sue Kirk and Denise Hinton at the University of Manchester. You can contact them for more information at:

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We have carried out a study to find out what life is like for children and teenagers who have multiple sclerosis (MS). To do this we spoke to 21 children/teenagers, 31 parents and 20 professionals who help them. This is what they told us.

Children & teenagers told us:
- They can feel poorly for a long time before a doctor says they have MS.
- Sometimes they ask questions about their MS but doctors and parents do not always know the answers.
- Sometimes MS makes it more difficult to do things like walking and getting dressed and they may need help from parents and friends.
- They do not always want to tell people they have MS because they are worried about what other people will think.
- They sometimes feel sad and worried about having MS. Talking to a counsellor or psychologist about their feelings can help.
- They like it when doctors and nurses ask them how they feel and listen to what they have to say.
- They want to take their medicines and parents can help them to feel less frightened about the injections.
- They want to do well at school and sometimes need extra help from teachers to do their work.
- Sometimes other children can bully them about their MS and they may need help from parents and teachers to deal with this.

Parents told us:
- They can feel very sad and worried that their child has MS.
- They like it when they can speak to doctors and nurses who are friendly and can help their child.
- They want to help their child to stay well but sometimes they are not sure what to do or what to say.
- They want schools to provide extra help and support for children and teenagers with MS.

Professionals told us:
- Children and teenagers should be looked after by doctors and nurses with special knowledge of MS.
- Children, teenagers and parents need to be able to talk to a professional about their feelings.