

If you would like to know more, please contact your child's care team or contact our physical therapists at physicaltherapies@demelza.org.uk.

info@demelza.org.uk

[@demelzacharity](https://www.instagram.com/demelzacharity)



**Demelza Kent
(Registered Office)**

Rook Lane, Bobbing,
Sittingbourne, Kent,
ME9 8DZ
T: 01795 845200

**Demelza
South East London**

5 Wensley Close,
Eltham, London,
SE9 5AB
T: 020 8859 9800

**Demelza
East Sussex**

150a Bexhill Road,
St Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex, TN38 8BL
T: 01323 446461

Find out more at:

[demelza.org.uk](https://www.demelza.org.uk)

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Moving and handling

What is moving and handling?

Moving and handling is a term commonly used to refer to the support or movement of a person (Manual Handling Operations Regulations). This may include how a child or young person gets out of bed; in/out of the bath; managing personal hygiene tasks (such as dressing or toileting); or how they move around an environment for example from room to room.

Moving and handling:

- Supports and enables the child or young person.
- Considers the task they wish or need to undertake.
- Explores the impact of their chosen environment.
- Utilises the most appropriate equipment and techniques.
- Ensures colleague wellbeing.



Moving and handling at Demelza

All care and nursing colleagues receive comprehensive moving and handling training, with an ethos of independence and safety weaved into all aspects of care. Safer moving and handling is promoted by Demelza's physical therapy team.

All children or young people requiring assistance to move will have a moving and handling risk assessment care plan completed. This will be carried out by an appropriately trained person and will be reviewed on each admission to the hospice or as part of the assessment process within their home. This assessment will identify techniques, equipment and how many colleagues are required to assist the

child or young person with all aspects of movement. This assessment will reduce the risk of moving and handling to the lowest level practicable.

Whilst continuity as to how a child is handled at home may be achieved whilst the child is cared for by Demelza, this may not always be possible. There may be differences in equipment available or in recommended techniques. For example, Demelza may use a hoist, whereas the child may usually be physically lifted at home.

How can we help you?

We can...recommend appropriate equipment and ergonomic changes to minimise risks to children and young people, and those that are handling them.

We can...work together with families to explore new moving and handling opportunities, by empowering families to explore all options when making decisions about handling.

We can...address anxieties by working with families, at their pace, to reduce worries around moving and handling.

We can...collaborate with external healthcare partners (e.g. social care, school) to 'bridge the gap' and try, where possible, to work towards consistency in the child's handling.

We can...complete an assessment to glean a deeper understanding of the child's complex handling needs, when necessary – this may include a home or school visit.

