

# Peer Support for Children & Their Parents

by NLLIC Staff  
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All of us, young and old, want to be liked by our peers. For a child with limb loss or limb difference, the regular challenges of growing up can seem even more difficult, which is why peer support can be especially helpful to these young people. Peer support is most successful when it happens on its own. The best thing you can do is create an opportunity without making peer support the focal point, and then step back and let it happen. So what are your options?

**Peer Visitation** – Peers can help new amputees adjust to a new life by sharing information, by offering emotional and practical support, and by serving as models of success. Although peer support is ideally conducted through personal visitation, it can also take place in the form of a phone conversation or through regular mail. Contact the Amputee Coalition of America (ACA) for specific information regarding our nationwide peer support network or visit [www.amputee-coalition.org/npn\\_about.html](http://www.amputee-coalition.org/npn_about.html).

**Special Events** – Some organizations, such as ACA, host summer camps and special events that bring young people and their families together to interact, relax, have fun, and learn from one another. Contact ACA for specific information regarding our annual youth summer camp or visit [www.amputee-coalition.org/youth\\_camp.html](http://www.amputee-coalition.org/youth_camp.html).

**Online Support** – If your child doesn't yet feel ready to face someone in a one-on-one situation, or if transportation or accessibility is an issue, you can find some of the same benefits of peer support through the Internet without leaving the comfort of your home.

## Online Resources for Children and Parents

ACA's Youth Activities Program  
[www.amputee-coalition.org/youth\\_camp.html](http://www.amputee-coalition.org/youth_camp.html)

**Brave Kids**  
<http://www.bravekids.org/>

**children with DIABETES**  
[www.childrenwithdiabetes.com](http://www.childrenwithdiabetes.com)

**KidsHealth**  
[www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

**Ability Online**  
[www.abilityonline.org](http://www.abilityonline.org)

**I-CAN Network**  
[www.child-amputee.net](http://www.child-amputee.net)

**Winners on Wheels**  
[www.wowusa.com](http://www.wowusa.com)

**FirstGov for Kids**  
[www.kids.gov/](http://www.kids.gov/)

**Helping Hands Foundation**  
[www.helpinghandsgroup.org](http://www.helpinghandsgroup.org)

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