



What is a Cleft?

Cleft means 'spilt' or 'separation.' A child can be born with a split in their lip, a split in their palate, or both. The split can be on one side or both sides, partial or all the way through.

Special considerations to be aware of for a child born with a cleft lip and/or palate:

- Bullying / Low self esteem due to facial scarring or difference
- Speech difficulties
- Hearing difficulties
- Possible problems with eating or drinking
- Dental problems
- Extra time off for check ups and further surgery
- Anxiety around times of further surgery

(Every child and every cleft is different. The list given is an example and may not apply to every child born with a cleft.) If you would like more information please contact CLAPA (www.clapa.com, 0207 833 4883) for a copy of their leaflet entitled "Children born with a cleft lip and /or palate: The School Years."

Photo (now or as a baby)

Name

Date of Birth and Age

Type of Cleft

How do I deal with my cleft?

(Happy to talk about it, don't like it to be brought up, self conscious etc)

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The phrase I use (and would like my teacher to use) to help me deal with comments and questions

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Operations to date

Associated difficulties, if any (i.e. hearing

What I enjoy

What I want to achieve