



MOVE Europe

Impact Report 2024/25



MOVE Europe's mission is to ensure children and young people with physical disabilities are given every opportunity to gain independent mobility. To help children and young people reach their full potential, MOVE has developed an activity-based framework combining the expertise of education and therapy and families to enable the development of the functional skills of sitting, standing, walking and transitioning. Our programme is used collaboratively within educational settings and therapy teams to teach disabled children mobility skills that will increase their functional independence.

Why We Exist

Many physically disabled children experience barriers in developing their physical skills to sit independently, lift their heads or learn to walk. Some disabled children are told they will never be able to do something or that their movement will be limited. We exist to challenge the societal barriers that disabled children face and ensure all children with physical disabilities in the UK and Europe are given opportunities to learn and maintain functional movement skills.

History of MOVE

MOVE was first developed over 40 years ago by Dr Linda Bidabe, a special needs teacher from the USA, who noticed that most of her time with disabled young people was spent passively interacting with them during mealtimes and personal care. Linda recognised that children needed to have an active role in their everyday activities and the importance of utilising the expertise networks supporting children. In response to this, she designed an education-based programme that incorporated motivating and functional movement practises at every opportunity throughout the school day and beyond. The concept spread rapidly to other schools, and in 1991, the first official MOVE Programme was written. In 1997, the MOVE Partnership was established to coordinate the MOVE Programme across the UK. Today, MOVE Europe supports the MOVE Programme in schools, therapy teams, and families across the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe.

Why we are different

MOVE stands for Movement Opportunities Via Education. Our central philosophy is that movement and learning are linked; we incorporate teaching and therapy skills to allow children to learn and develop through being given opportunities to move and explore. MOVE also works on a can-do approach and focuses on progress towards a goal that is specific to each child and their family. By placing children and their families at the centre of MOVE, we set our sights and expectations high, placing no limits on disabled young people and the people who support them.

Our Vision

For every disabled child and young person to have choices and opportunities to learn independent movement to enhance their functional mobility.

Our Mission

To ensure disabled children and young people gain independent, functional mobility by delivering:

- **Training:** We deliver high-quality training that empowers teams across the UK to use the MOVE Programme with the disabled individuals they support.
- **Support:** We provide high-quality support services for the teams that use the MOVE Programme to ensure best practice and great outcomes for the disabled individuals they support.
- **Growth:** we continue to develop the MOVE Programme across the UK and Europe to reach as many disabled young people as possible who could benefit.

Our Values



Dare to dream

We set our sights and expectations high, placing no limits on disabled young people, the people who support them, and ourselves as an organisation.



Better together

We believe in the power of the team to achieve great outcomes, valuing everyone's input and working holistically.



Pursue excellence

We strive to deliver the best possible services, empowering teams to develop their MOVE Programme provision and achieve best practice.

Dare to Dream with MOVE

91%

of children and young people on the MOVE Programme learned new skills, or maintained motor milestones

The main outcome for MOVE is to increase functional movement skills, subsequently raising aspirations and expectations for disabled children. We therefore celebrate every achievement a child makes in working towards their individual goals. Last year, 91% of children on the MOVE Programme maintained or learned a new motor milestone. This has ensured children have independent movement within their own home, school and local community, whilst also reducing the need for equipment and encouraging increased independence.

At MOVE, we also champion children and young people who have degenerative conditions. The goals of these individuals are likely to focus on maintaining their current skills, using these throughout functional activities explore new experiences, or slowing the pace at which their motor functions decline. Last year, **59% of young people with degenerative conditions benefited from being on the MOVE Programme.**



“MOVE has created a culture where movement is seen as part of learning and wellbeing, increasing both the quantity and quality of movement opportunities for children and young people throughout the school day.”

Percy Hedley School

As well as having significant benefits for physical health, the MOVE Programme has also supported children and young people to develop social skills and increase engagement with their education.

97%

Improved their health and wellbeing

76%

Improved their communication skills

94%

Improved their engagement with education

4%

Increase from 2023-24

Equal

to 2023-24

3%

Increase from 2023-24

MOVE Day

Here at MOVE, we delight in celebrating every success, especially during MOVE Day. MOVE Day is an annual celebration which takes place across MOVE settings, designed to recognise the incredible hard work and achievements of our MOVE pupils, MOVE teams, and MOVE schools. This special day is dedicated to acknowledging the collaboration between schools, families, and pupils in working together to achieve great outcomes with the MOVE Programme.



In 2025, our theme was **StoryMovers!** This was an opportunity to turn the page to the literary world of books and tales, bringing movement along with us. This theme gave everyone the chance to bring their favourite books to life within their schools and immerse themselves in the stories they love.

In 2025, so many of our MOVE schools and settings were so wonderfully creative with this theme. Calthorpe Academy, for instance, flew off to the second star on the right and straight on into the world of Peter Pan. The team created decorations and activities out of everyday household items to promote accessibility and to inspire families to continue to explore Neverland at home. Calthorpe Academy aspires towards Peter Pan's message, which they displayed in school, that "Dreams do come true if we believe hard enough"

Another wonderful example was from Newfield Special School, whose pupils tackled long grasses and uneven forest floors of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', before preparing some snacks and listening out for roars as they experienced 'The Tiger Who Came for Tea'.

Each year, we award a prize in recognition of a school's amazing efforts on their MOVE Day. **The 2025 MOVE Day award went to Princes Primary School.**

In addition to celebrating all their pupils, over 70 people passed through Princes Primary School's MOVE Day balloon arch and walked the red carpet of their MOVE Awards ceremony. They were greeted by Liverpool's Lord Mayor, who presented the awards, before heading outside to continue a celebration packed with bubble performers and live singers, and farm animals, alongside a showcase of Jiraffe's adaptive trikes, Everton's adaptive sports, and the local Riding for the disabled group.



Family Engagement

Children and young people are at the heart of their MOVE Programmes, but we also recognise the vital role that families play in their children's journey. By prioritising family involvement in the MOVE Programme:

An incredible **82%** of Parents/Carers are engaging more in their children's education, an **increase of 23%** from 2023-24

“MOVE helps to encourage joint planning sessions with parents, therapists, and staff, ensuring family voices are heard and valued.

[There is a] positive emotional impact as families see improvements in independence and quality of life.”

Ysgol Hen Felin



“Parents all congratulate each other's children on their achievements...

Parents offer each other ideas [and] willingly to try new activities that have been suggested by the MOVE Team ”

Ysgol Calon Lan

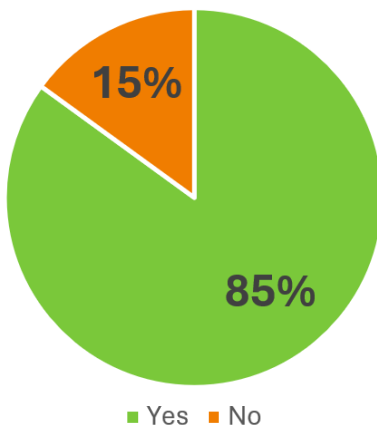


59% of Parents/Carers have increased their confidence to provide movement opportunities at home.

Staff Support

MOVE Europe provides a wide variety of CPD for staff at MOVE settings, from in-person and online training to regional network meetings and dedicated one-to-one support. We are alongside our MOVE settings on every step of their MOVE journey.

Has MOVE supported your staff CPD?



MOVE has provided training opportunities for lots of staff, as well as giving staff the toolkit and confidence to develop innovative plans to put movement opportunities at the heart of their planning.

- Acorns Primary School



Growing our Network

In 2024-2025 we introduced **19** new settings to the MOVE Programme.



We now have a total of **167** schools and settings across the UK and Mainland Europe.

“MOVE is an amazing tool and support system for school staff which enables them to deliver a child/family-centred movement programme that works with children's therapy teams to achieve goals that are important and meaningful to them.”

- Chestnut Lodge School

MOVE Conference 2025

“This is my first conference, and I was not sure what to expect, but it's been both informative and enriching. Thank you.

Trinity School

“Everything was really interesting, and you could see that you put so much work into making sure you covered all areas... It's all about connecting with our students in the simplest ways but having the most impact.”

Alfreton Park School

The 2025 MOVE Conference saw the return of both an in-person and online event, and both were another resounding success! This year, we focused on sharing knowledge and expertise via collaborative workshops and networking. Inspiring experts shared their knowledge and expertise from the benefits of musical hydrotherapy to bringing stories to life through movement each workshop, supported our settings with ideas to enhance their MOVE provision, which were discussed during interactive and collaborative workshops and networking opportunities. We welcomed over 75 participants and featured six exhibitors: Jiraffe, Friendly Shoes, Liquid Listening, Wet Wheels, and Sensory Soup.



Quality Marks

MOVE Quality Marks are a formal recognition of the dedication of our settings to delivering the MOVE Programme to a high standard. Our rigorous framework provides a clear map to success to ensure the very best for pupils on their MOVE journey.



3 schools achieved a
Bronze Quality Mark



7 schools achieved a
Silver Quality Mark



5 schools achieved a
Gold Quality Mark



4 schools achieved a
Centre of Excellence
Quality Mark

“Through following the clear guidelines in the Quality Mark framework, we have been able to improve the ways in which we record and analyse the progress that the children are making.”

Acorns Primary School

Looking Ahead

Following the success of an impactful 2024 -2025 year, we are looking ahead into the coming year with some exciting projects and opportunities...

Mini MOVE



This year, our Mini MOVE project has continued to build momentum following the initial pilot within the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB). The Mini MOVE assessment framework, developed collaboratively between MOVE Europe and the ABUHB, has taken a step further, with a second-stage pilot programme extending across the UK.

Alongside the ongoing pilot in Wales, Mini MOVE is also being trialled in 10 schools in England, each supporting a diverse range of children with complex needs and spanning a broad age range. These pilot schools have met regularly with MOVE Europe and the ABUHB team to share updates and provide valuable feedback on their practical experiences. These insights have been crucial in further refining the Mini MOVE framework to ensure it meets the needs of the pupils it aims to support, as we aim to offer this to an increasing number of settings later in 2026.



We are very grateful to the settings who have supported our extended Mini MOVE trial and are helping us ensure this project realises its full potential. We are excited about the future of Mini MOVE and will look forward to sharing more exciting updates very soon!

Training Updates

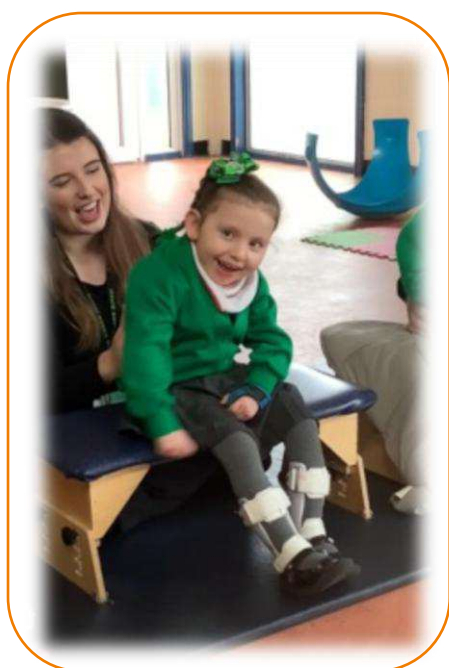
In 2024-25, we redeveloped our training offer to make it easier to understand and more user-friendly. Over the last year, we have continued to refine our training materials to strengthen our training offer and maximise the impact this can make

This project is continuing to make significant progress, and a trial of the new training is now underway in 9 schools across the UK. Feedback from participating schools will further shape the next phase of development, and we aim to complete this over Summer and Autumn 2026.

Meet Nevaeh...

Nevaeh is a joyful pupil with Cerebral Palsy who, before starting MOVE with her teacher Jess, had very limited independent movement. Through meaningful goals and daily movement opportunities, she quickly developed stronger head and trunk control and progressed to sitting with minimal support, which her family once thought might not be possible.

These new skills have opened up Nevaeh's world! She now enjoys horse riding, joins family mealtimes more independently, and plays more easily with her siblings. She's currently working towards using her walking frame so she can go to football matches with friends and family.



We're proud to share that Nevaeh's story will be the main case study for our updated MOVE training, showcasing the real impact of the programme in action. We're incredibly grateful to them for allowing us to share her journey. A big thank you to Nevaeh, her family, and her school, Princes Primary School!

Scan the QR code below to learn more about Nevaeh's amazing progress with MOVE!





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