



# The Young Persons with Multiple Sclerosis Network

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# Addressing **Unique Needs**

## ● **Young Persons with MS: A Network for Families with a Child or Teen with MS**

- multiple program options for families living with a child or teen that has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis
- a collaborative project between the MS Society of Canada and the National MS Society (USA)
- launched in 2003



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# More Than Information

## ➔ Education

- learn about the disease, manage the symptoms and adapt to the changes that MS brings

## ➔ Information and Referral

- locate the appropriate resources

## ➔ Emotional Support

## ➔ Connecting Families

- learn from similar experiences and share one's own in a comfortable and confidential setting

Everyone in the family is thinking about MS



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# Supporting PARENTS

- ✿ **Kids Get MS Too: A Guide for Parents Whose Child or Teen has MS (French and English)**
  - handbook containing a wide range of information on pediatric MS, written written by specialists in childhood MS
- ✿ **Teleconferences for parents** of children with MS
  - introduce families to specialists working in the field of childhood MS: research, treatment, cognitive issues, etc.
- ✿ **Email Group for Parents**
  - email list serve group where parents can share concerns and information, and develop a support network
- ✿ **Information and referral**
  - local resources, info on pediatric MS and MS in general, web resources



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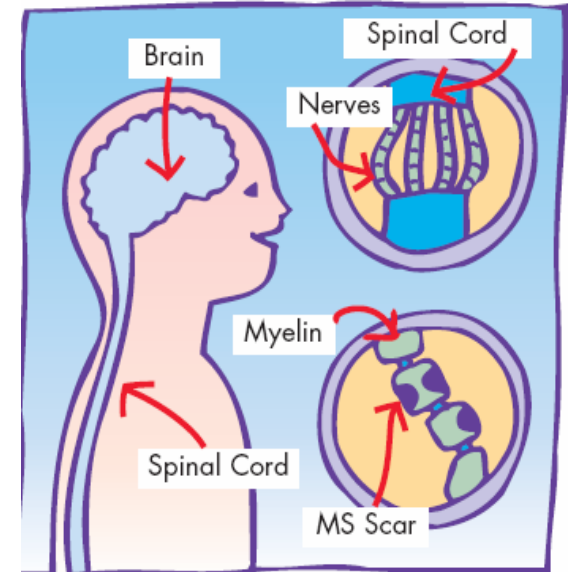
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# Helping **KIDS**

## ● **Mighty Special Kids: An Activity Book for Children with MS**

- for children ages 5-12 with MS
- includes educational games, activities, and age appropriate articles to help children better understand their diagnosis (English & French)
- available in interactive version [www.nationalmssociety.org/mskids](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/mskids) (English only)



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# Connecting **TEENS: Ithink...**

## ✿ **Email Group for Teens with MS**

- moderated email group that allows teens to "meet" other teens, share concerns and information, and develop a support network

## ✿ **Telephone Support Group for Teens**

- a time-limited telephone moderated support group for teens with MS
- provides teens with a safe environment to share thoughts and concerns about living with MS (not a counseling group)
- lead by a young person with MS



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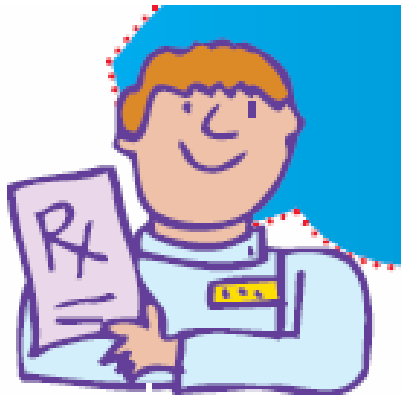
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# Resources for **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

- **Questions and Answers – Kids Get MS Too**
  - information guide on pediatric MS (French & English)
- **Pediatric MS resources**



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**SP**



# Contact the Network

- **MS Society of Canada**

Coordinator, National Information Resource Centre

Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada

175 Bloor Street East, Suite 700, North Tower

Toronto, ON M4W 3R8

**Toll free** within Canada: **1-866-922-6065**

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