

FAMILIES

Raising a Child with Albinism

A guide for parents and caregivers



Congratulations on your child.

A child with albinism can grow up healthy, learn well, work and have a family, like any other child.

Albinism is a **genetic condition** passed on by both parents. It is **not a curse, and nobody is to blame**.

1 In the early years

- Love and accept your child openly. Your attitude teaches others how to treat them.
- Sun protection **from birth**: shade, light long clothing, a wide hat; sunscreen from about **6 months**.
- An **eye examination early**, then every year.
- Register your child's birth and keep health records safe.

2 Eyesight and learning

- Most children with albinism have low vision; many have **nystagmus** (quick, involuntary eye movements). This is normal for albinism.
- Glasses, magnifiers and large print help a great deal.
- Ask the school for a seat **near the board**, printed notes and extra time in exams.

Albinism does not affect intelligence. With the right support, children with albinism succeed at school and in life.

FAMILIES

Growing up confident and safe

You are not alone. AWA walks with families.



3 At school and in the community

- Talk with teachers early. AWA can share the **Teacher's Information Booklet** with your child's school.
- Teach your child to speak up when they cannot see, and to report teasing or bullying.
- Make sure hats and sunscreen are allowed in class and at playtime.
- Know where your child is, who they are with and how they travel to school.

4 Build confidence

- Praise your child's efforts and talents.
- Help them meet other children and adults with albinism. Seeing others like them builds **pride and belonging**.
- Connect with AWA and other families.

How AWA can help

- School support through **Send a Child with Albinism to School**
- SPF 50+ sunscreen
- Family counselling and peer support
- Links to eye and skin care

Contact us: contact@awaforcharity.org