Delivering Different News to Families

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Easy Read
This paper is about some work that we have done with health staff.

This is to help them to find the best way of telling new parents that their baby has a disability.

Pregnant mothers can choose if they want to have tests to see if their baby is growing well.

Some tests can show if their baby might have Down’s syndrome, Edward’s syndrome or Patau’s syndrome.
Sometimes parents find out that their baby has a disability after they are born.

It is important that the health staff are kind and honest with families when they are telling them the news.
Sometimes health staff get this talk right and sometimes they get it wrong.

We asked families who have children with a disability about how they were told this news.

We also asked the health staff about how they tell new parents about their baby having a disability.

They told us about things they think could go better and things that are already going well.
We gratefully acknowledge the input from our parent representative Mrs Angie Emrys-Jones and The Easy Read Company (Toni Edwards) in the development of this report.

We developed training and tried it out with some health staff.

We found that the training helped them to understand how important it is to be kind, honest and think about how the parents might be feeling.