



How has life changed for people with Learning Disabilities?

50s (Platinum Jubilee Special)



Queen Elizabeth 2nd became Queen in 1952.



Did you know that Coronation Chicken (chicken in a sweet curry sauce) was invented for the Queen's Coronation?

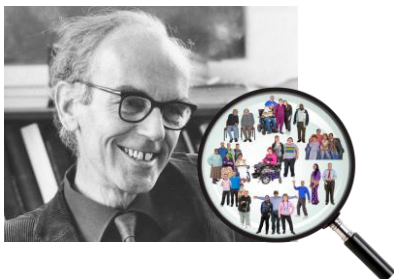


In the 1950s, it was common for children with learning disabilities to leave their families to live in 'long-stay hospitals'.



We thought that people with learning disabilities living in hospitals was wrong.

What do you think?



Professor Jack Tizard agreed with the Champions group. In 1958, He published research which showed that children with learning disabilities should live in the community.



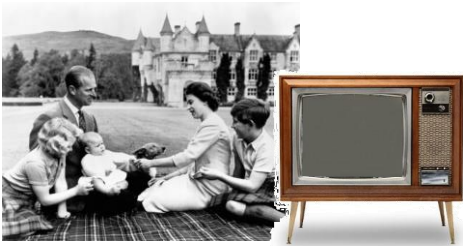
1950s Song Choice: [That's Amore](#)

60s

The 1960s



In the 1960s, man walked on the moon for the first time!



The first ever TV programme about the Royal Family was made in the 1960s.



In 1964, the first L'Arche Community home was set up in France, when Jean Vanier invited two men with learning disabilities to live in his home.

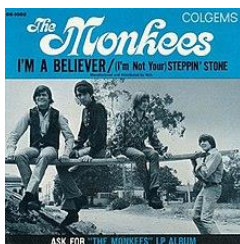


In England, a teacher called Stanley Segal wrote a book which said children with learning disabilities have a right to education, the same as other children.



We agree that people with learning disabilities should be able to go to school if they want.

What do you think?



1960s Song Choice: [I'm a Believer](#)

70s

The 1970s



The Queen celebrated her Silver Jubilee (25 years) in 1977.



At that time in Britain, there were a lot of strikes and power cuts.



A man called Wolf Wolfensberger wrote an important report in 1972 called 'The Principle of Normalization.'



This report was important because it said that people with learning disability should have the same life choices as anyone else.



We agree that people with learning disabilities should have the same life choices as other people.

What do you think?



1970s Song Choice: [Don't Stop Me Now](#)

1980s

The 1980s



In 1980, Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer. Their wedding was very grand.



Long-stay hospitals were closing. People with learning disabilities started to move to houses in the community.



In 1981, 3 people with learning disabilities (living in a long-stay hospital) successfully won the right to vote!



The first '[People First](#)' Self Advocacy group started in 1984. Now there are lots of self-advocacy groups.



We think it's important that the voices of people with learning disability are heard.
What do you think?



1980s Song Choice: [We All Stand Together \(The Frog Chorus\)](#)

1990s

The 1990s



The 1990s were not a happy time for the Royal Family. In 1996 Prince Charles and Princess Diana divorced.



Two important laws were written in the 1990s:

The Community Care Act said that people with disabilities had a right to get help in the community.



The Disability Discrimination Act said people should not be treated differently because they have a disability.

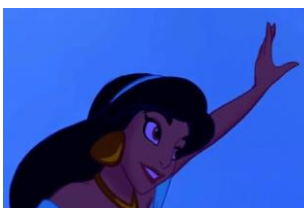
We think these are good laws.

What do you think?



In 1994, St Lawrence's Long Stay Hospital in Caterham closed.

Mabel Cooper lived at St Lawrence's. She told her story of life there which helped people understand what life had been like.



1990s Song Choice: A Whole New World



The 2000s



The Queen celebrated 50 years on the throne in 2002 –her Golden Jubilee.



In 2001, an important Government paper called Valuing People was published.



Valuing People said that many people with learning disabilities still didn't have good care or choices. This needed to change.



A law called the Mental Capacity Act was passed in 2005. The law says people with understanding and speaking difficulties must have help to understand and make choices.



We believe the Mental Capacity Act is very important.

Do you know about the Mental Capacity Act?



The Include Choir wrote a song about the MCA: Find out more [here](#)

2010s

The 2010s



Between 2010 and 2020, there were two Royal Weddings for the Queen's Grandsons, William and Harry.



Things were changing. People with learning disabilities mainly lived in the community, not in long stay hospitals.



People with learning disabilities had more rights protected by law.

BUT some things still really needed to change.

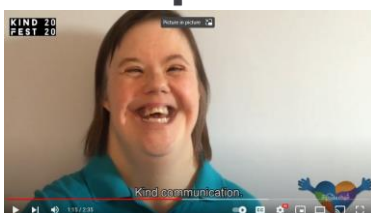


An important report called Death by Indifference sadly showed that people with learning disabilities still did not always get good healthcare.



We are still working for better care for people with learning disabilities.

Better communication skills in health and social care would make a big difference.



Our [Kind Communication Song](#) helps explain more.

The 2020s



In 2022 – the Queen celebrated her Platinum Jubilee. She has now been Queen for 70 years – longer than any other Queen or King in Britain – ever!



A lot has changed for people with learning disabilities in 70 years. We think things mostly have got better – but there is still a LOT more to do.



We hope you enjoyed reading our Learning Disability History Easy Read Special. If you'd like find out more, these websites have lots of information (not all Easy Read):



[Learning Disability – Campaigning – Our Impact | Mencap](#)



[Timeline of learning disability history | Social History of Learning Disability \(open.ac.uk\)](#)



[Social History of Learning Disability – Langdon Down Museum](#)



This video about Mabel Cooper is excellent [No Longer Shut Up: Finding Mabel Cooper's Voice – YouTube](#)



Or find out more about Mabel Cooper's life in her own words [Part 1 – Mabel Cooper's life story | Social History of Learning Disability \(open.ac.uk\)](#)

We would love to hear what you think. Did we miss anything important?
Email suggestions to info@include.org