



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

To join ECHO, please complete the form below and return to:

**Jessica Cattermole** Administrator at ECHO  
PO Box 5015, Brighton BN50 9JR

Alternatively, you may call Jessica on **01273 248948** or e-mail her at **admin@echo-evelina.org.uk**

Names of Parent/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Child's particular heart condition \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Has he/she had surgery? If so when?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be included on our contact database and be invited to social events in your local area? YES  NO

Would you like to be put in contact with other families in your local area?  
YES  NO

Would you be willing to offer support to other families? YES  NO

Membership of ECHO is free, but if you would like to make a donation, however small, it would be very gratefully received.

Registered Charity No. 287475

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Support for parents and families of  
heart-children treated at the  
Evelina Children's Hospital



**Evelina Children's  
Heart Organisation**

# WELCOME TO ECHO!

ECHO stands for Evelina Children's Heart Organisation. ECHO is a support group for parents and families of children suffering from Congenital Heart Disease who are treated at the Evelina Children's Hospital within Guy's & St. Thomas' Trust in London. We help make life more bearable for families whose lives have been devastated by their child's, often life threatening, heart condition.

ECHO is a registered charity and is run by parents whose own children have heart defects and who, therefore, truly understand what a lonely, unpredictable and often terrifying journey life with a heart-child can be.

ECHO'S mission is to help and support families in the following ways:

- Contact** We have a database of parents who are willing to talk to others about their experiences of life with their heart-child. Many of our members have found it invaluable to be able to talk to other parents in a similar situation to themselves.
- Newsletter** We publish a newsletter four times a year, which is free to members. This features parents' stories, news updates and advice from the hospital, plus fundraising news and much more. The newsletter is also posted on the website.
- Hospital** We regularly donate items of medical equipment and fund other facilities for the hospital. In particular, we have provided a wonderful Parents' room at the new Evelina Children's Hospital, which is a comfortable and relaxing environment for parents to retreat to whilst their child is staying on the Cardiac ward at the hospital.
- Pre-natal** We have a pre-natal support programme, which includes regular one-day Parentcraft courses run by specialist Midwives at St. Thomas' Hospital, which are specifically for parents whose unborn child has been

diagnosed with a heart defect and who will go on to be treated at the Evelina Children's Hospital. We also have 2 parents who are available at all times to offer pre-natal telephone support.

**Website** Our website ([www.echo-evelina.org.uk](http://www.echo-evelina.org.uk)) contains news of up and coming events, fundraising activities and parents' stories, not to mention medical information and links to other related websites. The website also has a Message Board, which is an invaluable way for parents to contact and support each other on-line.

**Social events** As well as our wonderful Annual Christmas Party, we have added a Summer Party & Barbeque to our list of regular annual events. Many parents also organise coffee mornings and other social outings, and invite member families in their local area. All these events offer a wonderful opportunity for our members to meet up and make friends with other families.

**Awareness** We try to raise awareness of the implications of living with a child with Congenital Heart Disease, within the community at large, within schools and within the medical profession.

**Information** We provide information and links to other relevant organisations, and sources of support.

*"Nearly three years after Samuel's surgery, ECHO is a very important organisation in our lives. We have made many great friends, who we treasure dearly and hope that we too can offer support to others facing the unknown."* ROSIE

*"Everyone's story is different, but also, often, uncannily similar. You know you haven't been alone"* SHARON

*"It wasn't until I found ECHO and realised that we weren't the only family going through this, that I began to cope with my son's heart condition"* MANDY

