

HEAD SMART

EARLY
DIAGNOSIS
OF BRAIN
TUMOURS

Dear Parent/Carer,

10 children and teenagers are diagnosed with a brain tumour every week in the UK.

That's why we're supporting HeadSmart – an awareness campaign which informs and empowers parents and healthcare professionals to recognise the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and teenagers to reduce diagnosis times.

Why is HeadSmart important?

Early diagnosis of brain tumours can reduce long-term disabilities and save lives, but diagnosing brain tumours is often not easy as the initial symptoms may mimic those of less serious illnesses. As a result, parents or teenagers may put off visiting their doctor, and doctors may not feel confident in their ability to spot a brain tumour and refer the child or teenager appropriately.

To help overcome these issues, HeadSmart has developed a range of resources and materials to raise awareness and provide support for parents/carers, teenagers and healthcare professionals. They are developed from an evidence-based clinical guideline and include a website, animation, small symptoms card, quick reference guide for GPs and clinical posters.

To date, the campaign has helped to reduce average diagnosis times from over 13 weeks to 6.5. HeadSmart is now hoping to reduce this to 4 weeks.

With this letter we have included a HeadSmart symptoms card which lists the common signs and symptoms across three age groups – babies, children and teenagers. Please read the card and ensure you know the signs and symptoms. If your child is a teenager, you may want to show them the campaign animation which explains the symptoms in a teenager-friendly way: headsmart.org.uk/sam-animation.

For more information on HeadSmart visit headsmart.org.uk. You can also follow the campaign on Facebook (@HeadSmartCampaign) and Twitter (HeadSmartUK).

Kind regards,

The HeadSmart Team

headsmart.org.uk

A partnership between:

**THE
BRAIN
TUMOUR
CHARITY**


Children's
Brain Tumour
Research Centre

RCPC^H
Royal College of
Paediatrics and Child Health
Leading the way in Children's Health