

The Easiest Home Modifications For Children With Special Needs



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Home is a comfortable place that provides us with a place to relax after a long day, but for children with special needs, home also has to be a safe place with certain accommodations, and many families find themselves at a loss as to [how](#) to modify their homes without breaking the bank. Others want to find ways to make those modifications in an eco-friendly way.

No matter what your child's needs are, it's important to sit down and think about the best ways to make things easier for them and their specific needs. Whether you need to reconsider your flooring or make some physical changes to your bathroom, there are many simple ways you can modify your home within a budget. Here are some of the best tips on how to do just that.

Think safety

The bathroom and kitchen are often the rooms that see the most accidents in a home, so make sure they're safe by adding non-slip mats to the bathtub and bathroom floor, as well as a grab bar inside the shower. In the kitchen, remove stove knobs after use and keep them in a safe place. Turn down your hot water heater to prevent burns at the sink. Always make sure there is a working smoke alarm nearby with fresh batteries.

Lighting

Lighting is one of the easiest things you can change throughout your home. [Adding fixtures](#) or lamps to banish shadows is important for your child's safety to prevent falls and injury, but you can also replace the light bulbs you already have with energy-efficient bulbs. That way, you can save money on your monthly utility bill as well.

Flooring

Carpeting can be tough for children who use wheelchairs, walkers, or have issues with fine motor skills, so hardwood or laminate flooring is a much better option. Better yet, try bamboo flooring for a more eco-friendly choice.

Keep driveways and sidewalks smooth

Driveways and sidewalks can wear out over time, showing deep cracks that can become trip hazards for children. You can get around this by using porous asphalt or [perpetual pavement](#), a process which uses many different layers and can last up to twenty years before it needs to be repaired.

Use portable ramps

For homes that have small inclines or a short set of steps outside, a [portable ramp](#) is the perfect solution as it will allow you to use it in several different areas or even take it with you during travel, saving you quite a bit of money and time as an alternative to an electric lift or elevator. It's also very eco-friendly and won't eat into your utility bill.

Paul Denikin is a guest contributor who is passionate about sharing his experiences working on DIY projects to benefit people with special needs children. His initial efforts were all motivated by the desire to make his home more accessible for his daughter with special needs. The PHA is not associated with Mr. Denikin, nor do his opinions necessarily reflect those of the PHA.