



Adapting the accommodation needs to meet the client and their family's ever-changing circumstances

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ASHTONS BRAIN INJURY CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2024



## Anava Baruch

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Anava is the CEO of Design for Independence Ltd. A Housing OT led company that searches for, designs and adapts homes for people with catastrophic injuries.

Anava is the only occupational therapist who acts as an accommodation expert under part 35 of civil law.

## Agenda

Define the clients' accommodation needs.  
Who and what is taken into consideration

What is a forever home why do we call it that?

The impact of cognitive abilities on the client's accommodation needs.

The impact of the life cycle

Integration of care into a home setting





## Growing Up And Moving On

Most people without disability move a total of **eight** times in a lifetime.

Between the ages of 18 and 30, people will generally move the most, probably three or four times.



## Accommodation needs

What do we need to consider?

**Some would say -**

The impairments and the aids used to overcome the disability.

Disability in what?  
Activities of daily living.



## Activities of Daily Living

What is included in ADL?  
Surely this is not all that define us.

Even these basic tasks change with our life cycle

So, what else should be considered?



## The Impact Of Lifelong Needs

Wheelchair accessible homes, should not focus on the wheelchair, but rather focus on the person sitting in it.





Who has the needs in the family?

Our accommodation needs should include consideration of our roles in life- Spouse, Parent, Uncle, Sibling, Foster parent, Friend, Daughter etc.

These roles change as we move through life.





## Use of Space around the home and garden



Our **Occupational Role** (our professional identity and responsibilities) and **Occupational Narrative** (our life story, culture and life experience)



## Accommodation needs

The impairments and the aids used to overcome the disability.

### Disability in what?

- Activities of daily living.
- Performing our roles in life.
- Occupational identity.

Doing so whilst considering the Occupational narrative.





## Are we adapting for the wheelchair or the user?



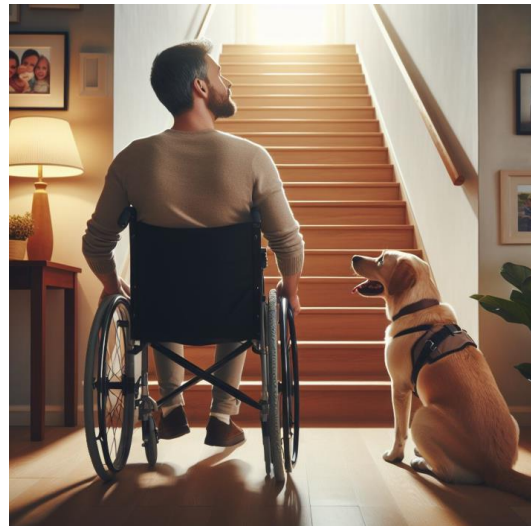
Alex is paraplegic, he sustained a complete spinal cord injury at T5-T7 whilst working as a fire fighter.

Alex's accident at work took place three years ago.

Alex was married and had 4 children under the age of 10.

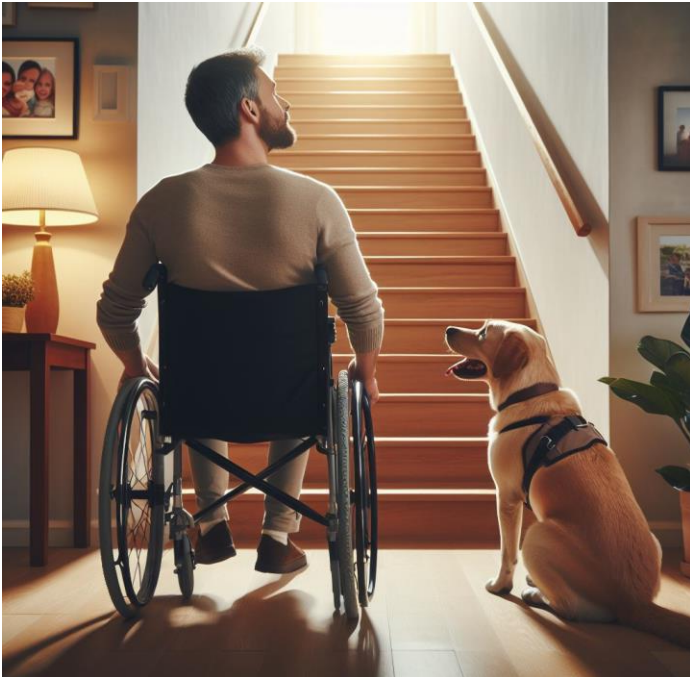
Alex was a very hands-on dad, he loved spending time with his children.

The family home was not **wheelchair accessible**. Alex was moved to a rental **wheelchair accessible home**.





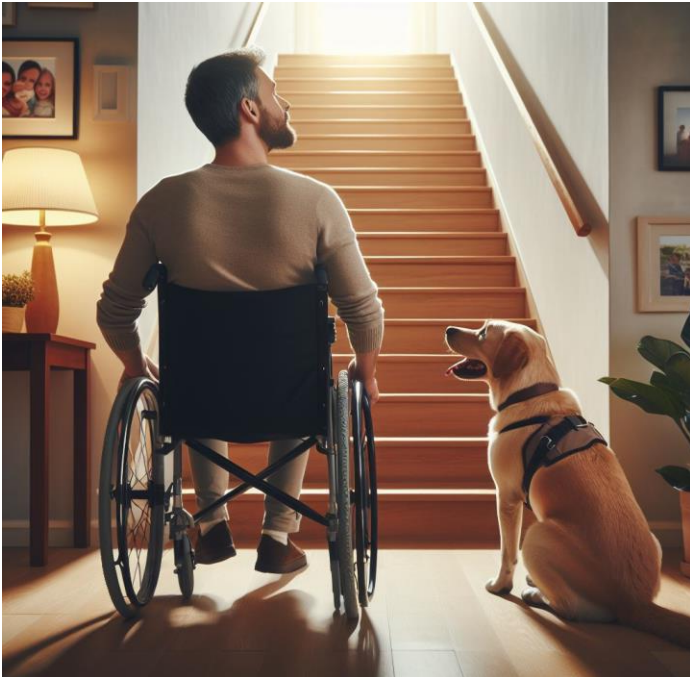
## Alex's accommodation needs



### Adapting for the wheelchair will include –

1. Level access and threshold free ground floor.
2. Wet-floor shower area
3. Access to a bedroom
4. Accessible kitchen
5. Access to communal rooms
6. Accessible patio
7. Hard standing for a wheelchair accessible WAV

## Alex's accommodation needs



### What is missing?

The user and everything that is important to him

- a. **Alex' roles in life** – husband, father, son, sibling, uncle and friend.
- b. **Alex's occupational role-** firefighter, craftsman, DIY expert, a football coach.
- c. **Alex's occupational narrative-** Alex is the glue that holds people together, both with his extended family and his colleges, he also leads the under-12 football group in his village.

How do we meet the user's accommodation needs?  
Are these permanent, long-term needs?

What is a forever home?

Most people move a total of 8 times in a lifetime.

Can we assume that one property will meet someone's lifetime of changed circumstances and needs?





## Jack's accommodation needs- long term

Jack is 11yrs, he has cerebral palsy and mild – moderate learning difficulties. He lives with his mother, stepdad and his three siblings (13yrs, 4yrs and 2yrs) in rented accommodation.

The family has no support system around and they are struggling to find a suitable support worker to live with them in this property due to the lack of privacy.

Jack uses a wheelchair when he has a bad day but prefers to walk whenever possible.



# Jack's accommodation needs- long term

What are Jack's long term accommodation needs?

This confirmed by the experts –

Likely to become a wheelchair user as he gets older. He will always require support with his personal care, but what else?

What are Jack's **occupational roles**?

What is Jack's **occupational narrative**?

When the client is a child, there is an additional need to consider the immediate family, how do we do that?



## Jack's family

As a child Jack's occupational narrative fits with the context of the adults he lives with.

The family story- the narrative

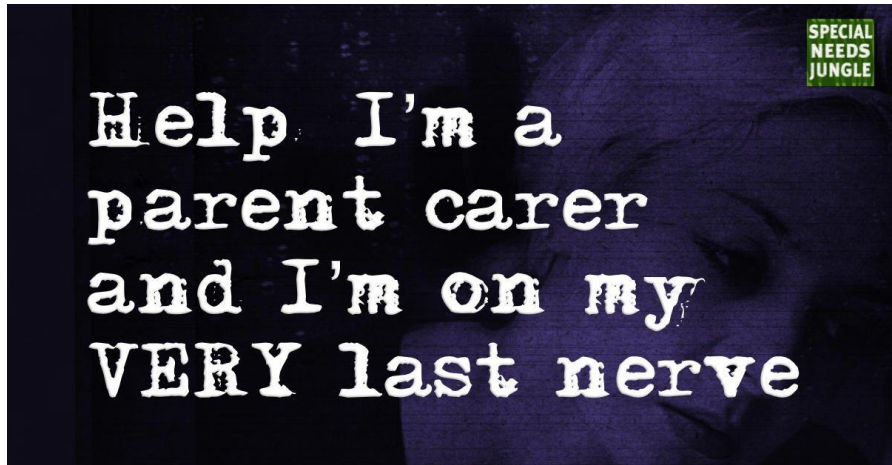
The adults' roles in life (carers and parents)

Their occupational roles.

All this must have an impact on meeting Jack's accommodation need **until he is an adult.**



## Integration Of Care Into A Home Setting



Separating the 'carer' from the parent-

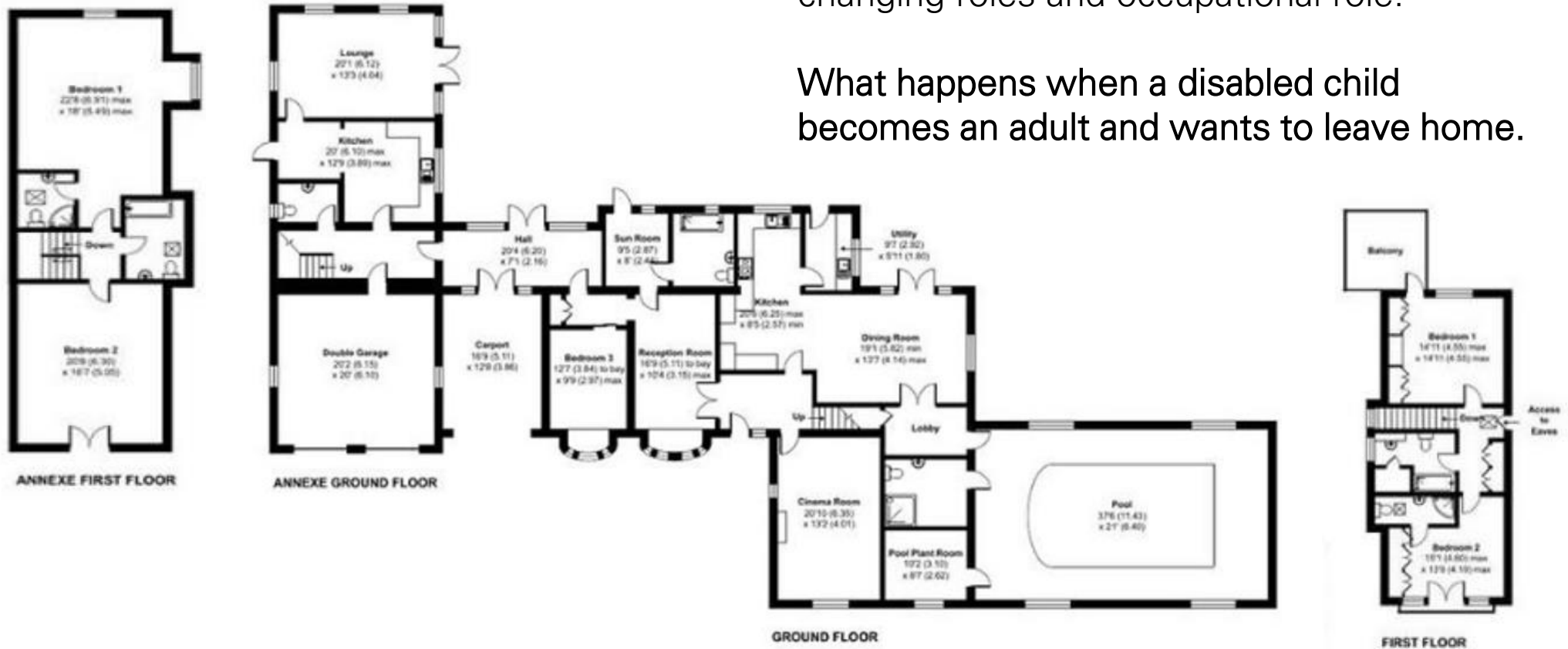
- a. The challenge of accepting care
- b. Getting used to 24 hours care- privacy
- c. Accepting care at night

The impact this has on the layout of the property

# Implementation

It is not just about the size and number of bedrooms. The layout is the key to success. How do you accommodate everyone's ever-changing roles and occupational role.

What happens when a disabled child becomes an adult and wants to leave home.



# Design for Independence

Thank you

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