



MOTHER MATTERS

The right of women with disabilities to motherhood

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INFORMATIVE PILLS

Informative pills provide brief explanations related to disability studies, accessibility for healthcare professionals, and motherhood for women with disabilities. They are based on a microlearning approach, a learning methodology that divides content into short units focused on a single topic or skill.

- PEDAGOGY and EDUCATION -

Disabilities Studies

Disability Studies is an interdisciplinary field that views disability as a social, political and cultural construct rather than a medical issue. It challenges exclusion by addressing structural and symbolic barriers, and promotes full participation for people with disabilities. Moving beyond biomedical models, it recognises their subjectivity and agency, reshaping education and public discourse—especially around motherhood and the rights of women with disabilities (WwD).

Within the Mother Matters project, this perspective shift is key. Disability is not an individual deficit but a lived experience shaped by social and cultural factors.



momsproject.eu



Mother Matters



[moms.mothermatters](https://www.instagram.com/moms.mothermatters)



[MoMs_MotherMatters](https://www.youtube.com/MoMs_MotherMatters)



Disability Studies must be linked to parental pedagogy, recognising WwD as active agents, capable of raising and educating from their own knowledge and experience.

In recent years, several European reports have explored the inequalities faced by women with disabilities. [**The European Disability Forum \(EDF\) study on sexual and reproductive rights \(2018\)**](#) highlights the multiple forms of discrimination affecting their right to motherhood. Similarly, the [**European Institute for Gender Equality \(EIGE\)**](#) has published [**reports on the intersection of gender and disability**](#), underlining the urgent need for intersectional policy approaches. These contributions reaffirm the importance of incorporating the voices and experiences of women with disabilities in education, research and policy-making.

Key considerations for professionals and researchers include:

- Studying the motherhood of WwD as a legitimate and diverse experience.
- Analysing the impact of social stigma on educational practices.
- Designing participatory research with women as active contributors.
- Integrating the biopsychosocial approach in professional training programmes.
- Building networks between universities, public services and women's collectives.

Recommended resources and readings:

- Disability Rights and Wrongs Revisited (Shakespeare, T., 2014, Routledge)
- Disability Studies: An Interdisciplinary Introduction (Goodley, D., 2017, SAGE Publications)
- [**Disability Visibility Project**](#)
- [**Centre for Disability Studies**](#) (University of Leeds)
- [**European Disability Forum**](#)

Integrating Disability Studies into training and family work fosters inclusive, critical pedagogy and supports building a fairer, rights-based society.

