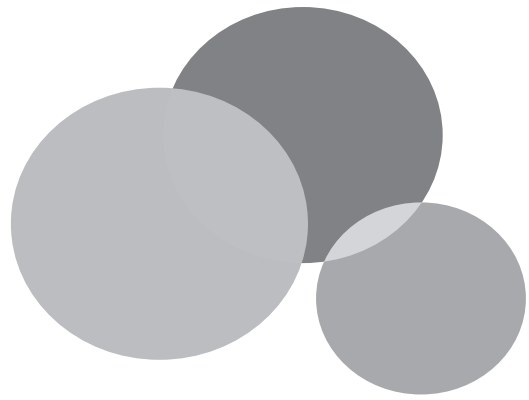


FIVE



Possible answer

Block and file

<i>Length of time to gain diagnosis</i>	<i>Responses of health professionals to parents</i>	<i>Responses of parents to the situation</i>
<p>1. For the first 10 months no-one helped. I went to several doctors and a paediatrician.</p>	<p>1. He told me 'He's retarded. I haven't time to answer your questions; I'm on the phone to the physiotherapist. I hope I haven't ruined your weekend. Try an intervention program; some kids it helps, some it doesn't.' The second paediatrician we saw at X hospital was nice but hasn't given us advice on where to go. I have to go and find everything myself. He didn't even tell me there was a developmental disability nurse at the hospital.</p>	<p>1. It's not a very caring hospital. Information is not given freely. They don't bother to remember a child's name – don't give any extra attention. I wouldn't leave my child overnight there. I did once, he was in a very bad way when I came back in the morning. They told me he was very spoilt.</p>
<p>2. We finally were referred to a paediatrician at 6 months.</p>	<p>2. He was absolutely atrocious – he treated the situation as though it was a damaged brain independent of the child. He didn't refer to the services in the hospital, let alone outside. There was a total lack of information as to what cerebral palsy was.</p>	<p>2. There is a lack of coordination of services when disability is diagnosed. It should be a function of the hospital to provide a support base from which to move out into the community to whichever services are most appropriate.</p>
