

Dressing Just Got Easier

Clothing Catalogue



Dressability
Tailored to fit your needs



Dressing with confidence...

When mobility impairments restrict your ability to put on or remove items of clothing, it can be a real problem, especially when day to day living may already have its challenges...

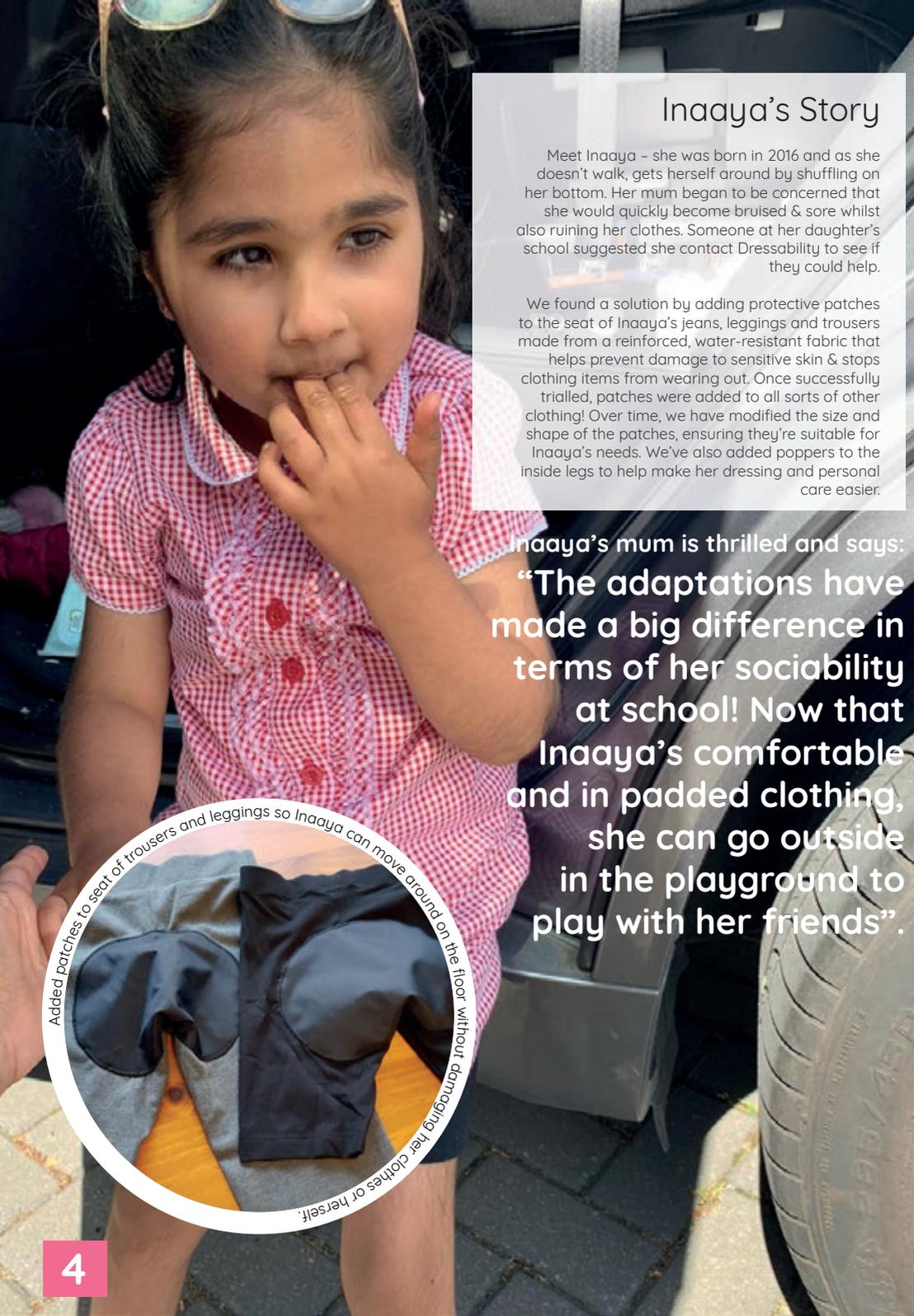
By adapting items of clothing for each individual's needs, we can put the fun back in fashion and more importantly, our clients get to choose the clothing they want to wear! We can help you feel good and give you independence to help provide a real sense of well-being.

It can be as simple as struggling to do up buttons, which can be easily adapted to magnets or Velcro ... we have a solution for most dressing issues.

From jeans to jackets, dresses to dungarees and skirts to shirts, the constant whirr of sewing machines can always be heard in our busy workshop.

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Inaaya's Story

Meet Inaaya - she was born in 2016 and as she doesn't walk, gets herself around by shuffling on her bottom. Her mum began to be concerned that she would quickly become bruised & sore whilst also ruining her clothes. Someone at her daughter's school suggested she contact Dressability to see if they could help.

We found a solution by adding protective patches to the seat of Inaaya's jeans, leggings and trousers made from a reinforced, water-resistant fabric that helps prevent damage to sensitive skin & stops clothing items from wearing out. Once successfully trialled, patches were added to all sorts of other clothing! Over time, we have modified the size and shape of the patches, ensuring they're suitable for Inaaya's needs. We've also added poppers to the inside legs to help make her dressing and personal care easier.

Inaaya's mum is thrilled and says: "The adaptations have made a big difference in terms of her sociability at school! Now that Inaaya's comfortable and in padded clothing, she can go outside in the playground to play with her friends".

Added patches to seat of trousers and leggings so Inaaya can move around on the floor without damaging her clothes or herself.

Adaptations for Children

Adapted Shirt

We added magnetic fastenings to a child's shirt to allow for easy opening and closing.



Magnetic Fastenings

Baby Grow

We added easy to open and close fasteners to this baby grow so that the parent, who has limited mobility, can easily dress their child.



Hidden Velcro

Adapted Top

By adding Velcro to this wheelchair bound child's top, dressing has been made easier.



Easy Close Fasteners

Adapted Coat

We made it easier for a wheelchair user to wear their coat.

Removing the back section means a comfier fit whilst sitting.



Removed back section

Adapting clothing for children can make a massive impact to their quality of life and their ability to play and learn. Adapted clothing doesn't just positively impact the child, it can also help parents and carers to dress children more easily, especially if they have reduced dexterity in their hands.

Whilst this isn't an exhaustive list of services we can provide, adaptations we offer include; adding Velcro or magnetic fastenings instead of fiddly buttons or poppers, Velcro back openings to help make dressing easier, creating slots for feed tubes, and adding a waterproof layer to tops to keep the wearer's chest dry.

Extra Padding



Adapted Trousers

Extra padding has been added to these trousers. So whilst crawling, it not only adds protection to the child's knees but also longevity to the garment.

Could we help you or someone you know?

Please contact us to book an appointment

Theo's Story

Theo was born in 2000 with Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy and partial deafness. Theo began using Dressability's service when he was at secondary school, as he needed to be able to dress himself independently.

Working with Theo, Dressability trialled several different materials and fastenings before settling on an option that really worked for him.

Being away at university, these adaptations proved invaluable to Theo and many different trousers and shorts have been adapted along the way. Feedback from Theo has informed new ideas and ensured we've always found the best solutions. For instance, adding a ring pull or a discrete ribbon to a zip, making it easier to operate. We also replaced fiddly buttons with Velcro.

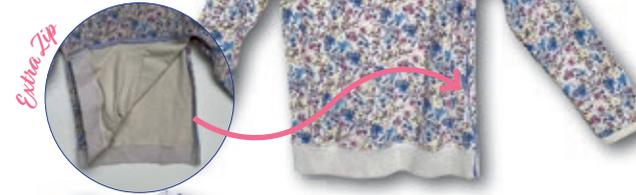
Small adjustments make sitting in a chair for long periods more comfortable, Dressability have achieved this by removing the back pockets of trousers, a simple idea that makes a big difference to comfort levels.

We continue to support Theo, who says: **"Dressability are so brilliant, because they know exactly how to adapt clothing without losing the look that we all buy new clothes for."**



Adapted Jumper

By sewing in an extra zip we made it simple to get this branded jumper on and off.



Adapted T-Shirt

We added in poppers along the seam of this t-shirt, hiding them and making dressing easier.



Adapted Jacket

We made it easier to carry this satchel bag by attaching the strap directly to the wearer's favourite jacket.



Adapted Shirt

We added magnetic fastenings along the button line to this shirt to allow for easy open and close.



Adapted Jeans

To make these pair of designer jeans easier to put on, we added hidden zips along the seams.



As young people develop it's important that they can express themselves and wear clothes that best represent them. This should be possible regardless of ability. Rather than having to buy clothing that specially accommodates their disability, we can alter their existing clothes, so they don't have to compromise their individual style.

Adaptations can include but aren't limited to; zips from hem to sleeve opening, Velcro flies and side neck openings all for ease of dressing, as well as zips in hem openings for simpler access to medical bags. We have also attached school bags to coats, so the young person is able to carry their own bag whatever their ability.

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Hannah's Story

Since making discreet adaptations to a very special dress to enable Hannah to enjoy being a Bridesmaid to a family friend, we have been helping Hannah with her complex clothing requirements ever since.

Following a brain injury in 2003, Hannah, now 25, was left with severe Cerebral Palsy and is now entirely dependent on help with daily living. Unable to independently dress herself, Hannah needed clothing to meet her special requirements, including accommodating feeding tubes.

Determined to allow her daughter to remain chic and fashion conscious, after carefully selecting items for her daughter on the high street, Hannah's mum's next stop was Dressability, where our team of expert dressmakers made alterations to ensure the clothing was capable of responding to the particular challenges Hannah - and those caring for her, faced.

The insertion of zips along the entire length of side seams mean that although Hannah has rigidity in her arms, she can wear flattering pinafore dresses - which her mum can easily slip her into; whilst waistband extensions in stylish, slim jeans enable the unobtrusive accommodation of hygiene products.

Hannah's particular liking for coats is reflected in the contents of her wardrobe - where jackets, with the back discretely removed to avoid bunching (which can lead to the development of pressure sores) mean she is equipped for every occasion; whilst the insertion of "hidden" small holes into garments allow feeding tubes to be accommodated without the need for threading medical accessories underneath and up through Hannah's clothing.

Hannah's mum, Yvonne said:
"Whilst I can go to commercial providers of clothing for people with disabilities, limited colour choices and selection combined with high prices mean this option is not really suitable for young people who want to fit-in and look fashionable; the can-do attitude I encounter at Dressability means I return again and again on the basis of enabling Hannah to remain up to the minute in clothing reflecting her age - and style!"

We were very happy to help Hannah look fantastic at a family friend's wedding.



Adapted Jacket

We made this fashionable jacket a more comfortable wear for a wheelchair user by removing a back section of material.



Dressability allows individuals to dress in styles of clothing to suit their personality and lifestyle, both professionally and at leisure.

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Hidden Fastenings



Adapted Polo

We added hidden magnetic fastenings so it is easy for the wearer to get over their head.

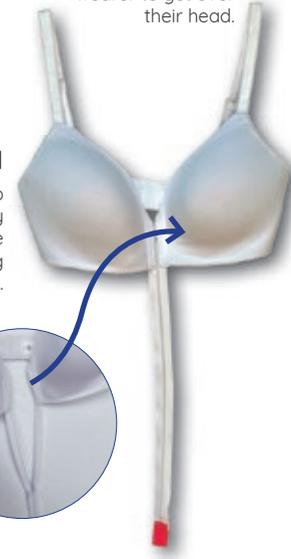


Adapted T-Shirt

By adding a discrete hole for a feeding tube, this wearer can still have the clothes she loves.

Adapted Bra

We added a zip to this bra to help a wearer with limited dexterity to one arm, anchoring the base between their legs whilst pulling the zip up.



Adapted Trousers

These trousers were made easier to get on and off by opening up the seams and adding a hidden zip.

Could we help you or someone you know?

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Alterations

Trousers / Skirts / Dresses

Shorten hems (price dependent on machine method)	£7.50 - £9.50
Increasing or decreasing width of waists and hips	£5.50 - £8.50

Shirts / Blouses / Tops

Shorten sleeves (price dependent on machine method/cuffs)	£5.50 - 7.50
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Jackets / Coats

Reduce length of sleeves (price dependent on lining)	£6.50 - £10.00
Replace zip (price dependent on zip type)	£8.00 - £12.00 (+ cost of zip)

Adaptations

Trousers

Extend fly and replace zip with Velcro	£12.50
Increase depth of waistband	£12.50
Adding reinforced patches (dependent on patch location)	£4.50 - £8.50

Tops

Replace buttons with Velcro, maintaining appearance of buttons (price dependent on cuffs)	£4.50 - £7.50
Side neck opening	£7.00 - £8.00

Misc.

Adding straps/front openings to bras	£4.50 - £7.50
Feed tube slot	£5.00
Bib	Dependent on style of bib

Mick's Story

After a career with the Royal Air Force, Mick suffered a stroke which has since left him in a wheelchair. After seeing pamphlets for Dressability at a local care centre in Swindon, Nicky, his wife, got in touch with us and we have been supporting Mick with his clothing needs ever since. Nicky was so impressed with the services Dressability offered, she wanted to help our charity and has subsequently joined Dressability as a trustee.

Mick and Nicky were recently invited to an event at Gatcombe Park, hosted by a military charity called 'The Not Forgotten', whose president is Anne, The Princess Royal. The event was Rockabilly themed and to make the day extra special two of our volunteers at Dressability made outfits for them. It's really important that Mick and Nicky are able to participate in events with their military family, and the outfits helped make them feel they could participate in full, despite Mick's disability, .

Nicky was very happy with their outfits and said:
“Edie and Ann (the volunteers) went out of their way to make the outfits the best that they could be.”

Please note these are only a sample of the services we can offer, please contact us to discuss your specific needs.

Price of children's adaptations subsidised - 40% deduction from above stated prices.

Dressability reserve the right to waive these charges, should your circumstances require us to.

Custom Bibs

Dressability have created a range of bibs that are more stylish and reflective of the wearer than standard bibs available to purchase. All bibs include a waterproof layer to protect the wearers chest from moisture, making them practical and attractive. Dressability have also re-purposed discarded school uniform and made them into bibs, meaning children who need to protect their uniform at mealtimes can do so discretely.



Dressing Aids

Dressing aids are devices which assist in the process of putting on an item of clothing. They are important pieces of everyday equipment for people with mobility and dexterity issues. An example of a dressing aid that Dressability is able to add to existing clothing is trouser loops; these are soft fabric loops, discreetly inserted into the waist band of trousers which help the wearer to grip and pull their trousers up, making dressing themselves easier.



Wheelchair Bags

Wheelchair bags provide a handy storage solution for essential items and shopping. They're ideal for people with reduced mobility or long-term health conditions, who use a wheelchair on a regular basis. Dressability make bespoke wheelchair bags that are not only functional but aim to meet the design specification of the customer.

Wheelchair Covers

Designed to keep the wearer comfortable in wet weather, Dressability's wheelchair covers are easy to wear and simply slip over your head to ensure the wheelchair user and their chair remain dry. Covering the top half of their body, it features extra length at the front to protect the wearer's knees, whilst ensuring they are still being able to use the pushing handles.



Ask about our wheelchair covers, that enable the user to shower seated in the wheelchair whilst protecting the chair from getting wet.

Drain bags

Some operations can mean that a patient will need to have drains postop. Hospitals don't routinely supply drain bags to patients and therefore the patient has to carry these around themselves. Dressability makes drain bags to help make recovery simpler. The bespoke bags we offer provide a safe and secure place to store drains, allowing the person to leave the house and carry out day to day activities more easily.



Eve's Dresses



Eve began using Dressability when she found herself with a 'wardrobe full of clothes she couldn't wear'. As she aged Eve's body shape and posture has gradually changed, leaving her unhappy with the fit of many of her garments. As someone who takes pride in their appearance, Eve always likes to look and feel her best.

At her initial consultation Eve was able to bring in her existing garments, along with new pieces to discuss how we could help her feel smart and confident again in her clothes.

With her daughter's wedding on the horizon, Eve felt confident choosing and buying a dress that we could nip and tuck to improve the fit and give the proud mother of the bride a positive confidence boost.

Research shows that what we wear has a huge impact on how we feel, and at Dressability we want to offer our clients freedom to choose clothes that bring out the best in them.

Maureen's Independence

Maureen has arthritis in her finger joints, which has made it increasingly difficult for her to put a bra on. Until recently, she had to rely on her husband to help her.



To continue to be independent, Maureen and her husband researched and found a company that sold bras with the fastening adapted. Whilst the adaptation made it easier to put on, the bra itself did not offer the support Maureen wanted.

Maureen's granddaughter is a Dressability customer, so it was suggested that Maureen approach our dressmakers to find a solution. Dressability adapted one of Maureen's bras and when asked what a difference the adaptation had made Maureen replied, "It's wonderful. It has given me independence and I can now dress myself without assistance."

Since then, another bra has been adapted, and in the future, Maureen will have any new bras adapted by Dressability. Also, she is planning to use Dressability's services to have the necks of jumpers and tops adapted to make dressing easier.



Andy's Shirts and Trousers

Andy Stevenson was born with what would be considered severe disability but has forged a successful career in TV sports production and radio broadcasting, he is now focusing on the latter.

He has just returned from Tokyo, where he presented the Paralympics for BBC Radio 5 Live. This summer, Andy also worked on 5 Live's coverage of the Olympics (from his spare bedroom!) and was at Royal St George's to interview the players at the Open golf.

As he says on his Twitter profile, Andy was born "without a full complement of limbs". In 2018, he was named as one of the 100 most influential disabled people in the UK.

In March 2020, he spoke at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva about disability representation in the media industry, on behalf of Channel 4.

Growing up, he had to rely on family to alter clothes for him but after encountering Dressability a decade ago through his wife's work at BBC Children in Need, Andy got in touch and has kept us busy ever since!

The alterations Dressability make for Andy have included shortening and tightening sleeves, widening his shirts to accommodate his protruding left hip and adding smooth-running zips and magnetic fastenings to trousers.

Andy comments "The expertise and standard of work I have experienced at Dressability is exceptional and the work they do really changes people's lives. When your body looks different to most people's anyway, your appearance in terms of clothes etc. can often become even more important to your self-esteem, so the significance of what Dressability do cannot be overstated."

We Need Your Help...

Like all charitable organisations, we rely solely on the generosity and kindness of others. Kindness is sometimes given in time, sometimes given in donations of clothing and sewing materials, sometimes in monetary donations but one thing's for sure, without the friends of Dressability, we wouldn't be able to continue to offer our services to the many who need our help.

We call out to everyone to join us; any help is so gratefully received.



Become a fundraiser

We are always trying to come up with new fundraising initiatives and if anybody has any suggestions - or would like to take part in an event on our behalf, we can support you by supplying sponsorship forms and other marketing materials, along with bags of enthusiasm to help get your idea off the ground.

giftaid it

Become a volunteer

We are always keen to hear from experienced dressmakers who have a morning to spare once a week to help us with our various community projects. A good standard of dressmaking is required and, in return, we can offer you the chance to work on some really worthwhile projects, alongside like-minded people, all with an interest in sewing and crafts.

However, if craft is not your thing, there are lots of other voluntary tasks you can help us with. We'd love to hear from you.



Getting in touch has never been easier



We offer a personal and confidential consultation for any new or existing clients.

We work on an appointment basis, in order to give each client undivided attention when visiting Dressability but we also won't turn anyone away that just drops by.

For those who would struggle coming to our Swindon premises, we offer an outreach service to visit our clients in their home.

There is never a job too big or too small, so please do ask how we may be able to help you.

Telephone
01793 512878

Email
mail@dressability.org.uk

Visit our website
www.dressability.org.uk

Visit us

**Bradbury House,
Westmead Drive,
Swindon
SN5 7ER**

**We are on the upper
floor of the
MS Swindon Therapy Centre.**

We have disabled access
if required.





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