Love them – cherish them – and treat them like any other child!

First, you need to realize that you are not alone in this… there are thousands of children born every year with limb differences. I-CAN is an organization that is here to help you. We are an e-mail support group made up of adult amputees and parents who have been where you are now. We have asked the same questions and even though we may not all agree on every issue, we can give you the benefit of our experiences.

International Child Amputee Network

We believe that fostering a healthy, positive self image is the most important part of helping these children become happy, productive adults. We believe in using the methods that have been proven to make a difference.

It has long been our opinion that raising a limb different child to be a proud, self confident adult was far more important than surgery or prosthetics.

Bill and Joyce Baughn started I-CAN as they began to appreciate what Joyce’s parents went through with little education, money or support. So, I-CAN is a memorial to them, and we hope I-CAN will help new parents avoid much of the pain, guilt and uncertainty they suffered.

The International Child Amputee Network (I-CAN) is a nonprofit educational organization with 501(c)3 status. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law and all donors will be issued a donation acknowledgment for tax purposes.

International Child Amputee Network
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The International Child Amputee Network

The International Child Amputee Network (I-CAN) was founded in May 1995, as an internet mailing list. Its purpose is to provide a vehicle for communications between the parents of children born with absent or underdeveloped limbs or who have acquired amputations in childhood and other parents who are in a similar situation. The list is also composed of adult mentors who have themselves grown up with a limb deficit. They give freely of their time to share their experiences growing up. These adult role models have a major effect on the child’s self image and their expectations for the future.

I-CAN mentors

I-CAN mentors are adult congenital or early acquired amputees who voluntarily participate in the mailing list and attend our annual meetings at their own expense. Their counsel and example give our parents and kids an accurate view of what affect their limb deficit will have on their lives.

The Child Amputee Home Page

In addition to the mailing list, we maintain an extensive home page at: http://www.child-amputee.net

Our home Page contains a wealth of information for parents, profile of families and mentors, and links to other sites of interest.

I-CAN Annual Meeting

Every year since 1997 we have held an annual meeting of kids, parents and mentors. Begun as a Friday through Sunday event it was changed in 2000 to Wednesday through Sunday at the insistence of participants.