

FAQ'S: How do I get an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) for my child?

Parents can often feel under great stress when their child has SEND. Getting the right advice can be crucial as special educational needs is a complicated area.

Should you feel your child is struggling and may need an Education Health Care Assessment **firstly discuss this with the class teacher and Special Education Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO) in school.** Discuss your concerns and ask school about their experience of dealing with particular needs, what has happened with children with similar needs and what were the outcomes.

If your relationship with school is difficult you can find further information by searching the school's website, in particular **find the school's SEND policy.**

For further information you could visit www.ace-ed.org.uk, www.ipsea.org.uk or www.cafamilyorg.uk. You may want to take a look at the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities: **A guide for Parents and Carers** (Ref: DFE-00547-2014) found at www.gov.uk. If you prefer, you can also **contact SENDIASS** to discuss your concerns with a co-ordinator by contacting our Advice Line via phone or by email.

If your child experiences learning difficulties that need different, or more support than others of the same age, they have **special educational needs**. This extra support is called **special educational provision**. Schools and colleges must use their best endeavours to ensure that such provision is made for those that need it. This will often be from their own differentiated resources and approaches. Schools may also involve an **Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist or a specialist teacher** in monitoring and reviewing your child's progress.

Special educational needs are outlined by four main areas: communication and interaction; cognition and learning; social emotional and mental health; sensory, physical and medical. Behavioural difficulties do not necessarily mean that a child or young person has SEN....



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Schools measure progress and attainment in all National Curriculum subjects against a key set of expectations per year group. Many schools have a system which measure progress in steps: Emerging; Developing; Secure (the expected judgement); Exceeding.

When a child is identified as having SEN, schools should take action to **remove barriers to learning and put effective SEN support in place**. To ensure this schools complete a four-part cycle (assess, plan, do, review) referred to as a **graduated approach**. Parents must be involved in identifying needs, deciding outcomes and planning provision.

Whatever type of SEN support is provided by the school, parents, children and teachers must be clear about how the expected outcomes will be achieved and when progress will be reviewed.

School can start the EHC assessment process should your child's needs require support over and above that provided within SEN Support. You will be asked to complete **Section A** of the Educational Health and Care Assessment Request form (EHCAR).

Should school decide that an EHC assessment is not necessary, but you do not agree with this decision it is **a parent's right to request an EHC assessment**. You can find a model letter which enables you to make this request of the Local Authority under '**Resources**' on our website. Once the Local Authority receive this letter the **20-week** process begins. The LA will send out a copy of the EHCAR to the school and yourself requesting completion within a time frame.



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