

What to do if you think your child has Special Educational Needs (SEN)

If you have read the information on the Local Offer and think that your child may have SEND, look at information on how children get support in school :

[The support every child should receive](#)

[How children get the help they need to in school](#)

If you have concerns about the support that school are putting in place the next step is to speak with your child's school or health visitor about your concerns.

If your child is in a school or nursery, they may offer to speak to someone in school who specialises in SEN called the [SENCO](#).

If you can't speak with your teacher, you can contact the school and ask for an appointment to speak with the SENCO.

Your child's setting will decide what level of support your child may need. This could be from the teacher (such as in the way they work with your child or present information), additional support staff or by getting advice from external professionals such as:

[Specialist outreach](#)

[Educational Psychologists](#)

[Speech and Language](#)

The setting may decide to create a special plan to describe what your child finds hard and what help they need in the setting. These can be simple documents such as an IEP, ANP, provision map or more detailed document such as an My Support Plan (this is generally used for more complex needs)

[Support plans in school](#)

It is really important that Parents & Carers are included at all stages when deciding what support your child needs.

The setting will review the support plan they have put in place and decide if they need to change anything.

They may decide to reduce the support if your child is making progress or may decide to increase it if your child is not making progress.

If the school feels that they have tried a lot of different ways to support your child, they may suggest applying for an EHCP.

[What are EHCP's](#)

[How to apply for an EHCP](#)

If you feel that your child is not getting the support they need, you can get help from the various support groups on the Local Offer who can offer you independent advice.

[Support groups and advice](#)

First, look at the information about what special needs are on the Local Offer:

[What are Special Educational Needs?](#)

And the information about specific conditions in [Common Concerns on the Information and Advice](#) page.

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4