



**SENDIASS Training for
Parents & Carers
of children with
Special Educational
Needs (0-25)**

Welcome

What is an Education, Health and Care Plan and does my child need one?

**Your Trainers: Nov.2020
Maxine Jewitt & Jasmine Dace**

SENDIASS

(Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service)

Who are we?

SEND

A service for those living or working with ages 0-25yrs with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Information

Providing factual information found in SEND Law and practices as well as local knowledge and signposting

Advice

Providing impartial advice on what steps to take in the areas of Education, Health and Social Care

Support

Providing confidential individualised support to empower those who seek our assistance

By the end of this session we hope you will:

- Understand what SEN support is
- Know how the 'Graduated Approach' works
- Feel more confident about communicating with school
- Understand what an Education Health and Care needs assessment is
- Have a basic knowledge of what an Education Health and Care Plan is
- Feel more confident about requesting an EHC NA
- Know how and where to access support

**We are splitting this session into two sections:
Starting with SEN Support, and then talking about the EHCP process.**

SEN Support

What are Special Educational Needs? (SEN)

A learning difficulty and/or disability which requires Special Educational Provision. (SEP)

Significantly greater difficulty learning than others the same age

Impairment has a substantial long-term adverse effect on carrying out day-to-day activities

Broad areas of need:

1. Communication and Interaction
2. Cognition and Learning
3. Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)
4. Sensory and Physical



What is SEN support?

Help additional to/different from support generally given to other children the same age.



- Schools will arrange this from their own resources. Details for each school is in their SEN Information Report.
- If school cannot meet the child's needs from their own resources, SEP can be obtained through an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which is secured by the Local Authority (LA)
- The LA responsible for securing this is dependant on the child's home address, regardless of where their school is.

Identifying SEN

- **All teachers should regularly check whether their pupils are making progress.** If they think your child is finding it harder than others, they should consider whether your child might have SEN
- School must talk to you about this and involve you in all decisions
- **Challenging/disruptive behaviour can be an indication of unmet needs**
- Sometimes you might be the first to be aware. If you think your child needs SEN support, talk to the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)



School's Legal Duty to Provide Support



- Schools must use their “**best endeavours**” to ensure any child with SEN gets the support they need, making “**reasonable adjustments**” to support a child in accessing education
- Schools use a guidance document on SEN support from their LA to help them decide whether/what type of support your child needs
 - There is no legal requirement to meet a specific number of criterion to access SEN support
 - The SEND Code of Practice (The Code) is statutory guidance that informs schools/organisations on how to put SEND law into practice

Schools SEN Funding

- **The Core Budget**

General provision for all pupils including SEN

- **SEN Notional Budget**

Based on estimated no. SEN children in school. GOV recommends up to £6,000 per SEN pupil for SEP

- **Top-Up Funding (Element 3)**

If individual SEN pupil needs more than £6,000 funding



What if a school tells me they can't fund what my child needs?

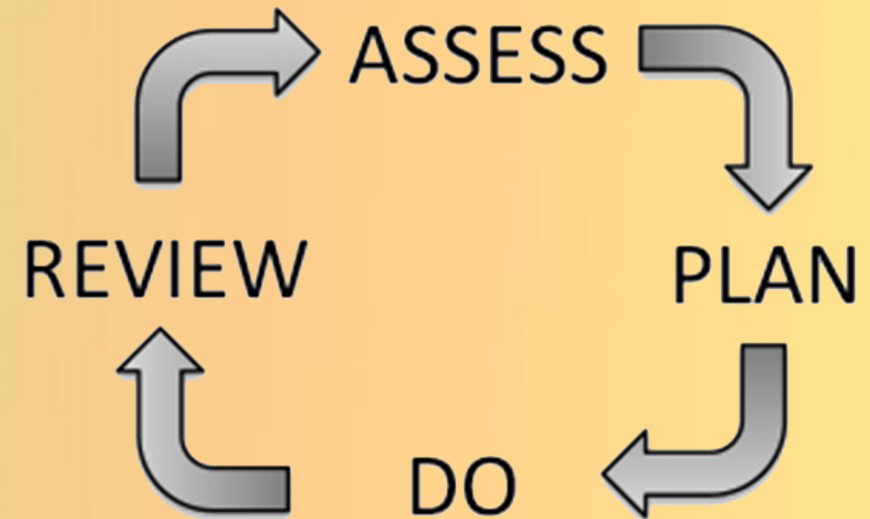
If a school feels that the local formula has not given them enough funding to meet the needs of children in their school, they will need to talk to the LA. They can provide additional funding from their high needs block for schools where the formula doesn't reflect the levels of SEN.

Ask the school whether it has approached the local authority for additional SEN funding.

Still a no? You may wish to consider an EHC needs assessment

The Four-Part Cycle

- School's SEN support should take the form of a **“Four-Part Cycle”**:
Assess, Plan, Do, Review
- **ASSESS** the child's needs
- **PLAN** how to address those needs
- **DO** put the plan into practice
- **REVIEW** how it's going and if anything needs to change



What is SEN Provision?



The SEN Support system uses a “**Graduated Approach**”. This might include some of the following provisions:

- An individual learning programme
- Extra help from a teaching assistant
- Being taught in a small group for short periods
- Making/changing materials and equipment
- Advice/extra help from specialists

Involving Specialists

- **Educational Psychologist (EP)**

Helps children achieve their full potential and improve their experiences of learning. They assess difficulties children may be having with their learning.

- **Specialist Teacher (Outreach)**

Teachers from special schools who provide an outreach service to mainstream schools to support areas of inclusion for pupils with SEND.

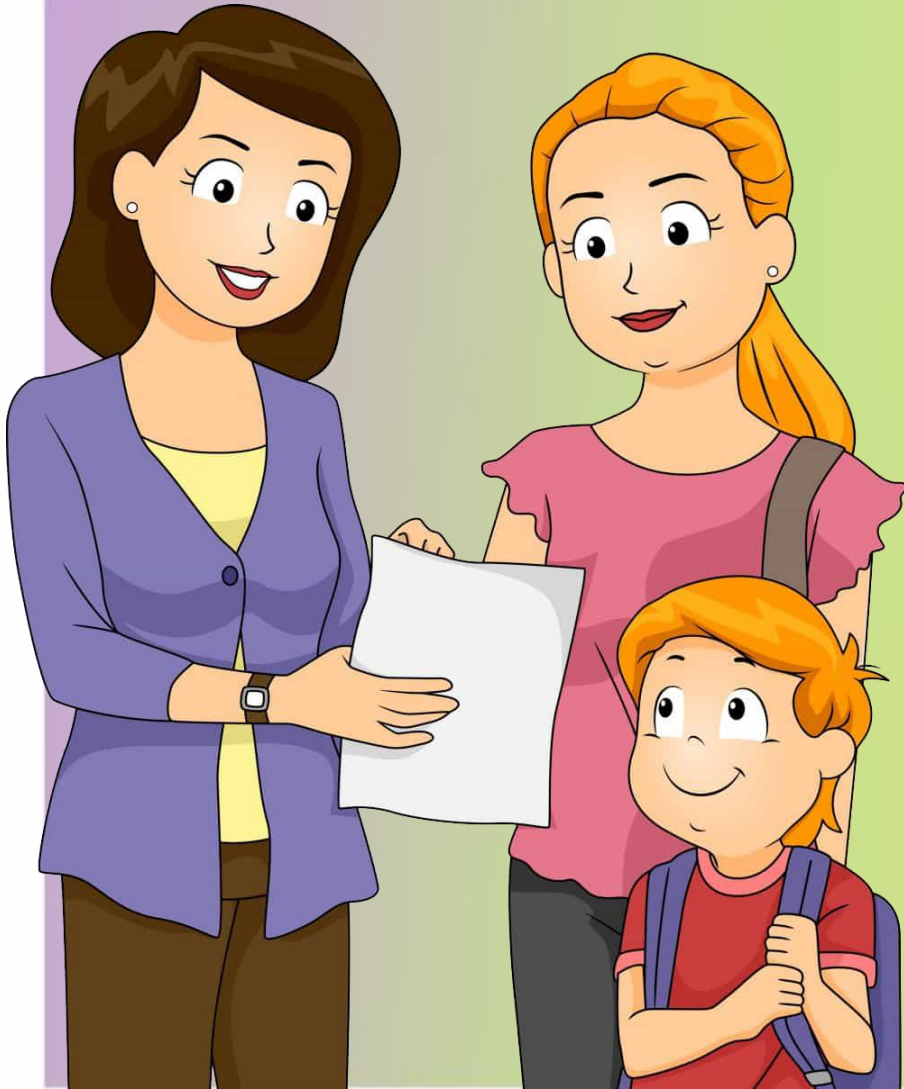
- **Speech and Language Therapist (SALT)**

Helps children who, for physical or psychological reasons, have difficulties with communication, or with eating, drinking and swallowing.

- **Occupational Therapist (OT)**

Helps children develop their ability to carry out day-to-day activities who, due to a disability, illness, trauma, or long term condition, has difficulty with completing these.

Communicating with School



- **Need to speak to someone?**
Arrange a meeting with the SENCO and class teacher
- **Resolving disagreements?**
Ask the SENCO to go through the SEN Support guidance with you and discuss points of disagreement on what your child is finding difficult
- **Have specialists been involved?**
If not, it may be helpful to approach them now
- **Still no progress?**
It may be time to ask the LA for an Education, Health and Care needs assessment

Example Questions to ask School

Raise YOUR concerns...

- How are you measuring my child's progress against Age Related Expectations?
- You've told me that my child is not yet working at Age Related Expectations, what additional support is available to help him/her?
- Have you asked for outside or specialist advice in order to know how best to support them?
- Do you have a leaflet or example that I can take away that explains the new assessment framework you are using?
- Where have you assessed my child as being at the moment?
- In which areas or skills has my child made progress this year?
- Can I see examples of work that shows progress?
- What are my child's next steps in learning?
- How are you supporting my child to make progress in...?
- What can I do to help my child's learning at home?



SEN Support Useful hints and tips



- Ensure you have formal arranged meetings at a mutually convenient time and not a quick chat in the playground
- Ask for/send confirmations via email/in writing
- Keep written, dated records
- Always think about this; what are you asking for?
- When discussing provision, think what does your child need? Be imaginative with ideas, think about what will work for them

A child cannot receive any kind of SEN support without a diagnosis. **FALSE**

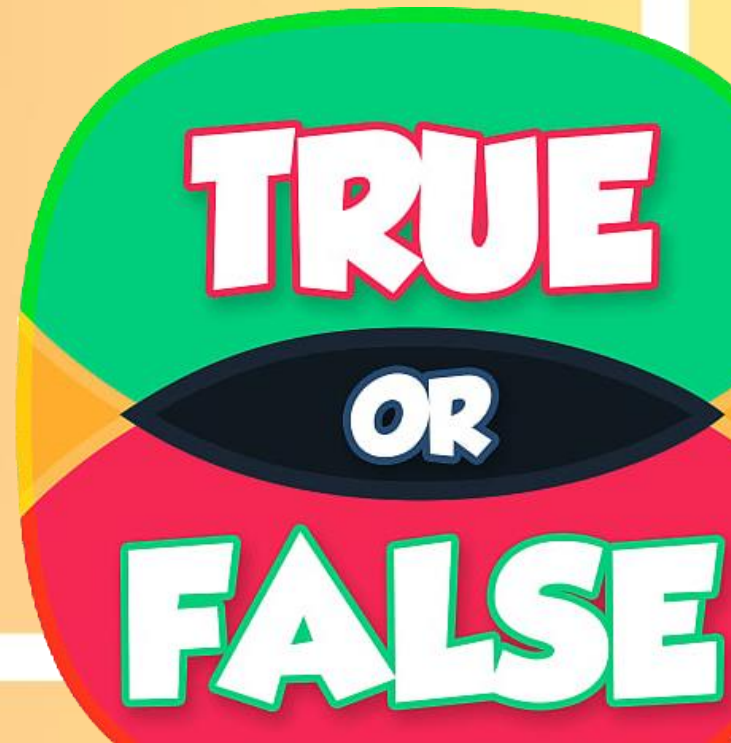
An Educational Psychologist can assess my child to identify the areas of difficulties in their learning and provide recommendations. **TRUE**

I can expect my child's school to provide SEN support as a Four-Part Cycle: Assess, Plan, Do, Review. **TRUE**

School doesn't need to tell me about the interventions they plan on doing with my child. **FALSE**

If school can't meet my child's needs within their own resources, then this indicates that an EHC needs assessment may be needed. **TRUE**

We live in Southampton but because my child attends a Hampshire school, the LA responsible for my child is Hampshire County Council. **FALSE**



You can find out more information about
SEN Support by:



- Reading the particular school's **SEN Information Report** which can be found on their website
- Talking to your child's teacher and the school **SENCO**
- Getting in touch with your local **SENDIASS** and reading our factsheets
- Looking at your local authority's "**Local Offer**"

Education, Health and Care Plans

What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?

Some children with SEN may need more support than would be ordinarily available at the SEN support level. These pupils receive support through an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

This is a legal document that describes a child or young person's special educational, health and social care needs; it details the support that is required to meet those needs; and how that support will enable the child or young person to achieve set outcomes and realise their aspirations.



Contain:

- 1. Needs**
- 2. Provision**
- 3. Goals**

What is an EHC needs assessment?



A detailed exploration to find out what your child's special educational needs are and what provision should be put into place to meet them. (Also known as EHC NA).

It is the step before an EHC Plan (often known simply as a 'plan'), but doesn't always lead to a plan being written.

Does my child need an EHC NA?

If you are concerned that your child is not making progress despite the level of support they currently get at school or in their educational setting, you have the right to ask the local authority to carry out an assessment of their needs.

They will consider whether your child has or may have a level of needs that requires their provision to be via an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

- Do they require personalised interventions specifically formulated to take account of their unique individual needs?
- Has advice from specialist services been requested and implemented by the school, then monitored and regularly reviewed?
- Are they on the school SEND register?
- Is the school working closely with parents and the C/YP to agree and review interventions and support, and to regularly monitor progress as part of the Assess & Plan & Do & Review cycle?
- Has the school applied for Additional Top-up funding (element 3) for specialist educational support services (Primary schools).
- Is a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and team around the child support in place?
- Is a Medical Care Plan in place?



LAs Legal Duty to Secure Assessment



- LAs must secure an EHC needs assessment if the child **has or may have SEN** and it **may be necessary** for extra provision to be made through an EHC Plan
 - There is no set criteria for a EHC NA
- LAs can only refuse a request if the **submission** does not meet the **legal test**
- The SEND Code of Practice (The Code) is statutory guidance that informs schools/organisations on how to put SEND law into practice

Legal test the LA must apply is Section (S.) 36(8) of the Children & Families Act 2014 (CAFA 2014):

“The local authority must secure an EHC needs assessment for the child or young person if, after having regard to any views expressed and evidence submitted under subsection (7), the authority is of the opinion that—

- 1) the child or young person **has or may** have special educational needs, **and**
- 2) **it may** be necessary for special educational provision to be made for the child or young person in accordance with an EHC plan.”



The EHC Assessment Process Timeline

You request an EHC needs assessment...

By 6 Weeks
The LA must tell you if they will or will not be assessing your child

By 16 Weeks
The LA must finish the assessment and tell you if they think your child needs an EHC Plan

Between 16-20 Weeks
The LA will send you a draft EHC Plan. You have 15 days to comment and request a specific school

By 20 Weeks
The LA must complete the final draft of your child's EHC Plan

Every 12 Months
The LA must review your child's EHC Plan

Making an EHC NA Request



Who can make the request?

- A parent
- Young person age 16-25
- School
- Anyone else can bring a child to the LAs attention E.g. foster carers, health and social care professionals, or a family friend, where they think it is necessary.

How to make the request?

You should make a written request and keep a copy of your letter. Your letter should set out why you believe your child has or may have special educational needs, and why you believe they may need special educational provision to be made through an EHC Plan. Send this to the Local Authority's SEN Team. There is no legal prescribed format, although LAs may expect you to fill in their own forms for making a EHC needs assessment request.



What to include in your submission

What is the Local Authority looking for?

Evidence that despite action taken to identify, assess and meet the Special Educational Needs of your child, they have not made expected progress.

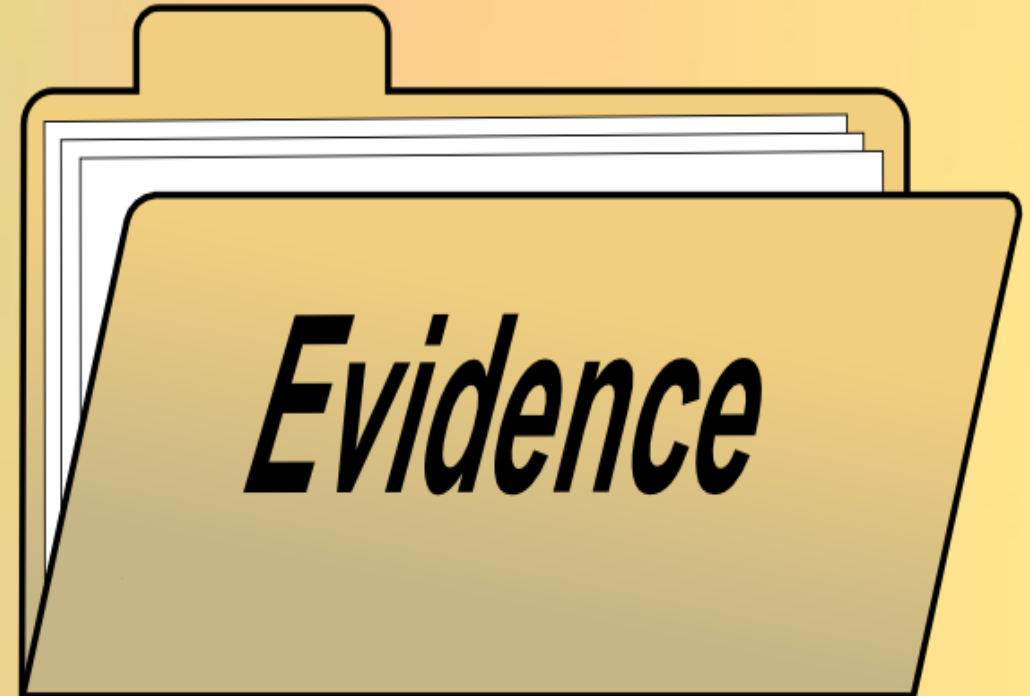
- **SEN** - The nature, extent, and context of your child's SEN
- **OTHER NEEDS** - Physical, emotional, social development and health needs, including relevant evidence from professionals
- **LEARNING PROGRESS** - Academic attainment or developmental milestones and the rate of progress. How this has been reviewed over time. Ensure you have highlighted that there is a highly significant barrier to learning in comparison to others their own age
- **PAST/CURRENT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT** – Action already taken by school to meet your child's SEN, and whether they have sought/responded to any advice from external professionals. Areas where progress has been made, but only as result of much additional intervention and support, over and above what is usually provided
- **OUTCOMES WANTED** – What you want to achieve through access to special education provision. i.e. achieving educational outcomes, preparation for adulthood, independent and social skills etc.



Useful sources of evidence

You will need to provide evidence to support your request for an EHC needs assessment. This could include;

- Your own parental/carer evidence
- The young persons voice
- Written statements from teachers
- Information from the school/college record
- Written statements from others involved with your child e.g. social workers, youth workers, carers, Health professionals e.g. CAMHS .
- Video/ audio evidence (this should be short and to the point)
- Your child's school/college work
- Professional reports



EHC NA Useful hints and tips



- Make copies of your bundle, do not send original documents
- Get written confirmation of delivery of your EHC NA Request submission
- Refer to/use direct quotes in the laws and SEND code of practice
- Write all dates in your diary, phone, calendars
- Once you have sent your EHCNA Request, the LA has up to 6 weeks to come back with answer

The LA can only refuse to assess your child if your submission does not indicate potential SEN and/or potential SEP.

TRUE

The LA must respond to your request to assess within 6 weeks of you submitting it.

TRUE

An EHC needs assessment always leads to an EHC Plan being made.

FALSE

An EHC Plan comprises of your child's identified needs, the provision required to meet those needs, and their identified aspirations and outcomes.

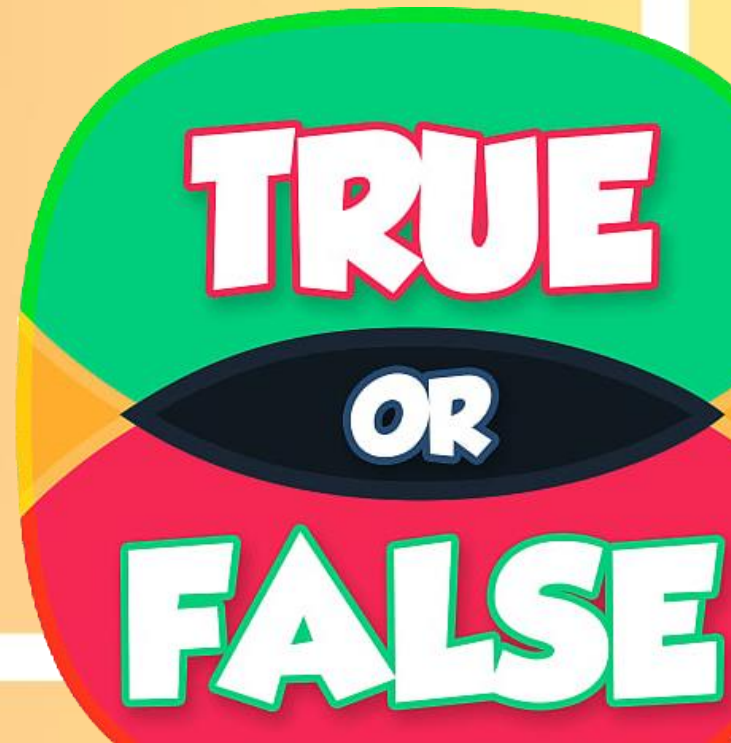
TRUE

If your EHC NA request is refused by the LA, you must wait 6 months before reapplying.

FALSE

You must fill in a prescribed form written by your LA in order to bring a child with SEN to their attention and request an EHC NA.

FALSE



You can find out more information about EHC Plans by:



- Reading the relevant sections in the **Children and Families Act 2014** which is statute law
- Reading the relevant sections in the **SEND Code of Practice: 0-25years** which is statutory guidance
- Attending our other **SENDIASS** parent training courses
- Looking at your local authority's **“Local Offer”**

Thank you for listening. Any Questions? Contact Us



West Berkshire



0300 303 2644

westberksiass@roseroad.org.uk

www.westberkssendiass.info

Southampton



0300 303 2677

southamptoniass@roseroad.org.uk

www.southamptonsendiass.info

Portsmouth



0300 303 2000

portsmouthiass@roseroad.org.uk

www.portsmouthsendiass.info

Self referrals/professional referrals welcome. For general enquiries email familyservices@roseroad.org.uk