

# PARENT/CARER GUIDE TO AN EHCP

## WHAT IS AN EHCP?

An education, health and care needs assessment is an assessment of your child or young person's education, health and care needs. An EHCP is a legal document which describes a child or young person's special educational needs, the support they need and the outcomes they would like to achieve.

A plan will be tailored to meet particular needs, so each child or young person's plan will look different.

## WHO ARE THEY FOR?

A child qualifies for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan if they have **significant** and **complex** special educational needs (SEN) or a disability **that cannot be met** by the usual support available at their school or college, known as **SEN support**.

An EHC assessment must be requested from the Local Authority and involves gathering evidence from various professionals to determine if the child's needs require the legal document and additional resources provided by an EHC plan.

## NEEDS

Talk to your child's teacher and SENDCo. Do you all agree? Why do you think your child needs an EHCP?

A child **may require an EHCP** when they

- **need more support than** school can give through **SEN support**
- is **not making expected progress**
- is not able to take part in the social parts of play and school



## LEVELS OF SUPPORT

## WHO CAN APPLY?

To make a request for an assessment, the school/setting, parent/carer and young person should work together to submit an application.

However, parent/carers and young people over 16, can also apply directly to their Local Authority.

# EHCP TIME FRAMES

**SCHOOL/PARENT/CARER REQUESTS  
AN EHCP NEEDS ASSESSMENT FROM  
THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**BY 6 WEEKS THE LA MUST TELL YOU IF THEY WILL OR  
WILL NOT CARRY OUT THE EHCP NEEDS ASSESSMENT.  
THIS DECISION IS USUALLY MADE BY AN SEN PANEL OF  
DIFFERENT PROFESSIONALS (E.G. SEN TEAM,  
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST, HEALTH LEADS)**

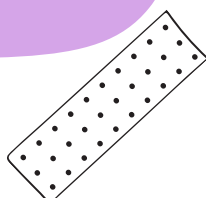
*Yes to assess*

**BY 16 WEEKS THE LA MUST FINISH THE  
ASSESSMENT AND TELL YOU IF THEY THINK  
YOUR CHILD NEEDS AN EHC PLAN**

*Yes to issue*

**BETWEEN 16-20 WEEKS THE LA WILL SEND YOU A  
DRAFT PLAN. YOU HAVE 15 DAYS TO COMMENT /  
REQUEST ANY CHANGES AND REQUEST A  
SPECIFIC SCHOOL**

**BY 20 WEEKS THE LA MUST COMPLETE THE FINAL  
DRAFT OF YOUR CHILD'S EHC PLAN**



# THE GRADUATED RESPONSE

## UNIVERSAL PROVISION

THROUGH HIGH QUALITY  
FIRST TEACHING, WHOLE  
SCHOOL INCLUSIVE SYSTEMS

**NOT MAKING  
EXPECTED  
PROGRESS**

## **ASSESS**

WORKING OUT YOUR  
CHILD'S NEEDS AND  
SPECIFICALLY WHAT  
THEY NEED HELP AND  
SUPPORT WITH

## **PLAN**

PLAN THE SUPPORT  
THAT CAN BE  
PROVIDED BY SCHOOL  
STAFF AND OTHER  
PROFESSIONALS

## **DO**

THE PLANNED SUPPORT  
IS PROVIDED, GIVING  
YOUR CHILD ENOUGH  
TIME TO ADAPT AND  
SEE IF IT WORKS

## **REVIEW**

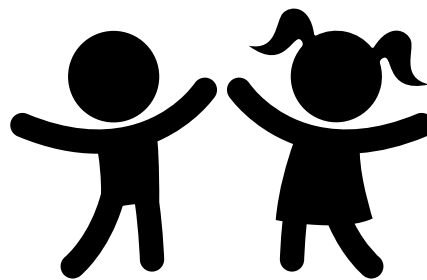
EVALUATE AND  
DISCUSS IF THE  
SUPPORT IS MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE AND IF THE  
PLAN NEEDS TO  
CHANGE

## **STILL REQUIRED**

RE ASSESS AND  
START ANOTHER  
CYCLE

## **PROGRESS**

SEND SUPPORT IS  
NO LONGER  
REQUIRED



# 4 AREAS OF SEND

DEFINED BY THE  
CODE OF PRACTICE

## COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION

How children communicate, understand and play with others around them.

This will also include children with speech, language and communication needs.

## COGNITION AND LEARNING

This includes difficulty with learning or remembering basic skills.

They may have difficulty with literacy or numeracy, or learn at a slower pace than others.

## SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Factors which impact a child's overall wellbeing, such as: emotions, social interactions, and relationships with others which may result in behaviours of concern.

## SENSORY AND/OR PHYSICAL

This includes vision, hearing or multi-sensory impairments, physical disabilities or sensitivities to aspects of the environment.

 Department  
for Education

 Department  
of Health

**Special educational  
needs and disability  
code of practice:  
0 to 25 years**

Statutory guidance for organisations  
which work with and support children  
and young people who have special  
educational needs or disabilities

