

SEN or SEND - Special Educational Needs (and or Disabilities)

pinpoint
for parents by parents

What is SEN or SEND?

SEN is the acronym for Special Educational Needs and SEND is the same but with the 'D' standing for Disabilities. People who work with people with needs often use it as a shorthand when talking about services or support for children aimed at children and young people who have special educational needs and or disabilities. Some children may have SEN because of a medical condition or a disability. Other children may have SEN without a diagnosis or a disability.

What is 'SEN Support'?

Some children need additional help and support in school. Each school will do this differently depending on the child's needs and how the school meets those needs. Children getting this extra support are on 'SEN Support'. For most children, the help they get in the SEN Support stage is enough to help them make good progress. Schools can use assessments and tests to identify what the child finds difficult and easy - this helps to decide what teaching and equipment will help a child. Schools can also ask for advice from specialists such as educational psychologists to help them. Some children may have short phase of SEN Support and others may have SEN Support throughout their time in school. Parents must be involved and know their children are on SEN Support.

What is an Education Health Care Assessment (ECHA)?

Children whose needs are not able to be met through the additional support offered at the SEN Support stage may need to have their needs assess more fully to see if they need greater or more specialist support. This is done through a formal Education Health Care Assessment. An assessment asks parents and range of professionals to provide information about the child's needs and decide what is needed to meet the child's needs. Where a child's needs are significant and cannot be met through SEN Support this leads to the Local Authority issuing an Education Health Care Plan.

What is an Education Health Care Plan (ECHP)?

An Education Health and Care Plan is a legal document which says what must be provided to meet a child's needs. It can name services, types of school, money and or equipment which is needed. It is reviewed every year to make sure it meets the child's needs. Children with an ECHP will often stay in their local mainstream school providing it can meet their needs.

What is a special school / cabin / nurture unit?

A special school is for children with an ECHP whose needs cannot be met in their ordinary mainstream school or are better met in a specialist provision - these are able to offer specialist teaching for a range of needs or just one type of need. Some mainstream schools (usually secondary schools) have mini specialist units within the school for specific needs - these are called cabins and nurture units.

Where to find out more on website:

www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk and look under Useful Information