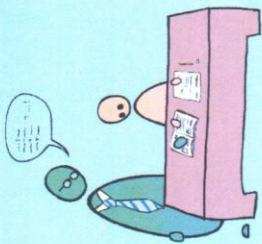
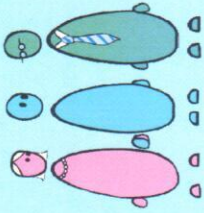


# SEN SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS



If at any time you think you might need support to help you through the process, contact Supportive Parents for free, independent and confidential advice and support tel: 0117 989 7725 or [www.supportiveparents.org.uk](http://www.supportiveparents.org.uk)



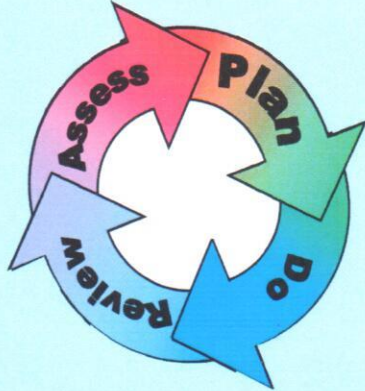
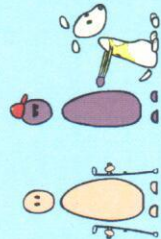
You or your child's school are concerned that your child needs help to learn that is additional to or different from the support generally given to most other children of the same age.

When your child has not made expected progress despite relevant and purposeful action by the school you should consider requesting an EHCP

Work with the school to see what services from the Local Offer your child can access to help them overcome any barriers to learning.

If your child has not made the expected progress, the review can decide what can be done next. This may include more or different help.

The SEND Code of Practice says "Schools should meet with parents at least three times a year" (6.65)



If your child has a medical condition, ask to see your school's policy that complies with the Government's Statutory Guidance. Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

The class or subject teacher is responsible for the work done with your child and should work closely with support staff or any specialist staff involved.

Meet with your child's class teacher/or SENCO to discuss your concerns.

Before you meet, write down your concerns and points to raise take a partner or friend, so you can concentrate on the conversation.

Agree on a plan of action, taking account of wishes of parents, child or young person.

The SEND Code of Practice says "Schools should take seriously any concerns raised by a parent" (6.45)

Sometimes schools will seek specialist advice. They should talk to parents and young people first.



# 12 Things you need to know about Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms

## What do the reforms mean?

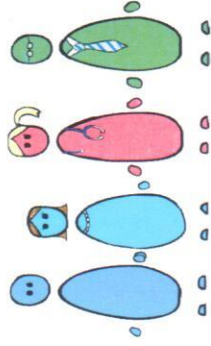
The SEND reforms mean you will be more involved in the decisions that affect you and your child. No-one should lose the support or services they need as a result of the changes.

## Will the assessments be quicker?

The Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan must be finalised within 20 weeks of the request for an assessment, compared to 26 weeks for statements. Your school and Local Authority must work with you as a full partner through the process.

## Who will be given an EHC plan?

The law about who is eligible has not changed. If your child currently has a statement of SEN and still requires one, then they will be given an EHC plan.



## What happens to my child's statement?

All existing statements will continue to have legal force beyond September 2014 until they are transferred over to a new EHC plan.

## How will progress be reviewed?

The legal duties on schools remain the same – they are still required to keep and share records of a child or young person's progress, the support they have and the impact it has had on the individual.

## Will there be a better choice of schools?

The new system improves the range of school choices for those on EHC plans, including some independent schools and specialist providers for which parents and children can make a request. Local Authorities have a duty to provide the support for any young person with SEND.

## Will Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) be able to offer adequate support for my child's needs?

Every SENCO will be qualified to support teachers to develop their expertise and ensure individual pupils' needs are addressed. The SEND Code of Practice is clear that every teacher is a teacher of children with special educational needs.

## What happens if you go to college?

You can take your EHC plan with you. No-one should lose out just because they are moving from school to college.

## Will I still have Higher Education support?

Students will continue to have comprehensive assessment of what support they need. The EHC plan can be used to determine what those needs are but it is not statutory in HE.

## Will Information, Advice & Support on SEND be available from September?

Local Authorities are responsible for making sure impartial information, advice and support is available in their area, not just about special educational needs, but also about disabilities, health and social care. The SEND Code of Practice says that Local Authorities should build on existing Parent Partnership Services, to provide the SEND Information, Advice & Support Service. Supportive Parents now provides the SENDIAS Service in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire [www.supportiveparents.org.uk](http://www.supportiveparents.org.uk)

## Will Independent Supporters be available from September?

Independent Supporters will be people from the local area, trained to help families through the process of securing an EHC plan, from September 2014. In Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire this will be provided by Kids (0117 9476111) and by Supportive Parents (0117 9897725)

## How can I get a personal budget?

You have the right to request a personal budget from your local authority when you have been assessed as needing an EHC plan or during a review of an existing plan. Independent Supporters can help you with this process. Information on how to request a personal budget and what it can do for you will be set out in your Local Authority's local offer.