

Parents guided to referral to the Area SENCo team in Solihull

Who are we ?

In Solihull all private nurseries and nurseries attached to schools have a named Area SENCo. There are 5 of us to cover Solihull. We are part of the wider Early Years Team in Solihull and we work closely with the wider SEND support teams i.e. the Specialist Inclusion Support Service (SISS).

Our role is to support, advise, and train Solihull nursery practitioners to meet the needs of children with SEND. A large part of our job is supporting the setting SENCo, enabling them to ensure all the children in their settings with SEND have the appropriate support.

Some children with a high level of SEND needs can be referred to our team to receive more individualised advice. Our Area SENCos will observe them in setting, then suggest targets and strategies for the nursery to implement. We then monitor children once a term, until they no longer meet our criteria or after half-term in reception.

We do not work directly with children, and we do not make referrals or EHCP requests ourselves but we do support staff in Solihull nurseries to do so if needed.

What needs to be done before settings refer to us ?

All Solihull setting need to follow the graduated approach when supporting children with any SEND needs. This means they must have assessed the child's level of need, put a plan in place to meet these needs, and reviewed if this plan is working i.e. is the child making progress. We call this the assess, plan, do, review, cycle. As a parent your nursery should include you in each stage of this cycle. We would expect that a nursery has followed this cycle at least once before referring a child to our Area SENCo team. Some children can have a SEND plan that the nursery is implementing, and the reviews show the child is making progress, these children may never need to be referred to the Area SENCo team. Although they do have SEND, their needs are being well met by the nursery. We call this *setting support level* in our graduated approach guidance. Most children with SEND receive this level of support.

What is our criteria for accepting a referral?

Some children with higher level SEND may not be making progress with the support the setting is putting in place. In these cases, they will need to ask outside agencies for support. The Area SENCo's are only one of the teams a setting may refer to. Once referred to an outside agency for support and advice, we call this the *specialist support level* in the graduated approach.

We only accept referrals to the Area SENCo team if the child attends a Solihull nursery setting. If they are not in any setting, they will need an Early Years Team Around the Child (EYTAC) referral via the Health Visitor. If they attend a setting in a different local authority, the teams in that authority will offer the support.

To be referred to our team for observations and advice, a child needs to have a significant developmental delay in 3 or more areas. Significant would be around 12 months delay in a child of 3

and above or over 6 months in a child of 2 or under . We do not work with children who have delays in only one or two areas of development or where the SEND need is not significant. Settings would be supporting the children and can also use the *setting support* graduated approach guidance to support the child.

Some children referred to our team may later make progress, so they no longer have significant delays in 3 or more areas. They would then move back to the level of *setting support* and the staff in nursery would continue to support and manage your child’s SEND needs. Children can always be re-opened to our team for additional guidance if things change again. Closing children to our team does not mean they don’t have SEND or that they won’t receive support. It means the support in place is working and the setting SENCo will continue that support.

Who else can support if your child does not meet our criteria ?

If your child has a significant developmental delay in speech and language may need a referral to speech and language therapy.

If your child has a significant delay in physical development, you may need a referral to a paediatrician or a physiotherapist. You need to talk to your GP or health visitor. You may be referred to the physical disability team in SISS.

If your child has difficulties managing emotions or behaviour contact Solihull’s parenting team or ask your setting about a referral to the children’s / adolescent mental health services.(CAMHs)

If your child has significant visual or hearing needs, you need to contact the Specialist Inclusion Support Service: Sensory and Physical Impairment Team.

For children who are unable to manage independence tasks that children their developmental age can do i.e. washing, dressing, feeding or some leisure tasks, then you may need a referral to occupational therapy.

All the above service have criteria for accepting a referral and you should talk to the SENCo in your child’s nursery about what are appropriate referrals.

	Child is in a group setting -a nursery or play-group.	Child does not attend a setting or is at a child minder.	
Child has high needs in 3 areas		Child has needs in 1 or 2 areas	Child has high levels of need in 3 area
Refer to the Area SENCo in the Early Years Team		Setting support and reasonable adjustments to meet those needs	Refer to the Early Years Team Around the child [with the health visitor]
Refer to the Solihull graduate approach guidance – specialist support level		Refer to the Solihull graduated approach guidance – setting support level	The Early Years Inclusion Support Practitioners help children [parents and childminders] in the home
			Refer to the Solihull graduate approach guidance – specialist support level