

Special Educational Provision

For very young children not yet in a nursery with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) special educational provision, may be supported in the home by specialist teams. In Solihull the two teams providing this support are the Specialist Inclusion Support Service (SISS) or the Early Years (EY). These teams support the parents to use the right strategies to help the child make progress. They model what needs to be done and signpost parents to other support. In these cases, the parents are providing the special education provision with advice from specialists.

When a child attends a nursery or childminders, the setting Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCo) is responsible for ensuring the correct special educational provision is in place. Special educational provision, as anything that is additional to, or different from what is generally there for other children of the same age. When we say provision, we mean everything that is in place to help the child learn and develop. This includes the environment, the resources and the way in which staff communicate and interact with the child.

For most young children with SEND special educational provision will be in their mainstream early years setting. All early years settings are required by law to be inclusive and welcoming to all children. They should work together with parents to meet the child's unique needs.

A child in a setting who has SEND will have an individual SEND support plan. This will describe their strengths, needs, and the provision in place to support their learning.

A small number of children have higher levels of need. Children with a very high level of need, may need an Educational and Healthcare Plan (EHCP) The setting can't apply for an EHCP without having followed the graduated approach. They need to show the support they have put in place over time on written plans. They need to evidence they have followed the [graduated approach](#). An EHCP is a legal document that lays out what special educational provision a child needs.

When a setting applies for an EHCP it is discussed by a panel of professionals. The panel decide if the evidence sent shows that the child has a very high level of SEND and that they may need a lot of support to access education. If the panel agrees with the evidence submitted, there is then a period of [assessment](#). This includes reports from professionals who know the child (i.e. paediatrician, SISS, EY Team, Speech and Language Therapist). This also includes an assessment and report from an Educational Psychologist, A second panel then meets and decides if the local authority will issue the EHCP.

If you want your child to go to a specialist nursery or school for children with SEND in Solihull, the child will need an EHCP which says that a provision other than mainstream is needed. Most children with an EHCP will go to a mainstream school. Having an EHCP

does not mean a child can go to a specialist school. If a parent wants panel to consider if special school is appropriate, they need to tell the EHCP team they want this when the child is being discussed at second panel. If a parent wants mainstream, then they will always be given that.

Nursery places may be available in our specialist nurseries on an assessment basis. These places are allocated on need and done so in discussion with The SISS team, The EY Team and the head teachers of Merstone and Reynolds Cross schools. There are very few places each year. The specialist nurseries cannot offer places to children directly. If parents want to be considered for available places they should talk to the Area SENCo or advisory teacher supporting their child.

Children attending specialist nurseries for their nursery year are **not** guaranteed an automatic Reception place at the school. They will be considered for a place alongside all other children applying for a reception place that year.