

LEWISHAM PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

What are Special Educational Needs (SEN)?

Children have Special Educational Needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made to them.

Children have a learning difficulty if they:

- a. Have significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age; or
- b. Have a disability which prevents or hinders them from using educational facilities which are generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the area of the local authority.
- c. And under compulsory school age and fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would so do if special educational provision was not made for them.

Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.

Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2001

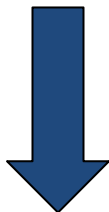
If you or the school are concerned that your child is not making good progress it is possible that they may have **Special Educational Needs (SEN)**.

If this is the case, your child may need support which is additional to, and different from, other children in their class. Schools should follow the guidance in the **SEN Code of Practice**.

Once it has been decided that your child has SEN the early years setting or school should help your child by a step by step or graduated approach.

EARLY YEARS ACTION or SCHOOL ACTION

*Information about your child's progress will be collected by the SENCO and teachers. The SENCO will talk with you about what additional or different help is needed. Individual targets should be set for your child. The school will do this by using 'Provision Mapping' or writing an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The school will review the IEP at least twice a year. School Action will continue until it is no longer needed, or it is decided that your child needs specialist support through **Early Years Action Plus or School Action Plus**.*



EARLY YEARS ACTION PLUS or SCHOOL ACTION PLUS

*If your child is not making enough progress with the support at School Action, the SENCO will ask you if they can get more specialist advice. They may seek help from a specialist teacher, an educational psychologist or a speech and language therapist. This is called School Action Plus. The SENCO will usually work with you to develop a new IEP based on the specialist assessment and recommendations and any extra advice. your child's progress will be monitored and reviewed regularly. School Action Plus will continue until it is decided that it is no longer needed, or a Statutory Assessment may be needed. A **Statutory Assessment** is only needed for a small number of children.*



STATUTORY ASSESSMENT

*This is a very detailed assessment by Lewisham Council of your child under the Education Act 1996. It will include information from you, your child, your child's teacher and professionals who work with or support your child. The assessment will see if your child needs a **Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)**.*



STATEMENT OF SEN

A statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) is a document that describes all of your child's needs and all the extra help that the Local Authority (LA) feels should be provided to meet those needs.

A Casework Officer in the Special Educational Needs Team writes the statement using the reports (known as "advices") from you and professionals, gathered during the statutory assessment of your child's needs.

See PPS leaflets:

- Individual Educational Plan
- Early years action & Early Years Action Plus
- School Action & School Action Plus
- School Based Support
- Statutory Assessment & Statements