



READY TO LEARN EVERY DAY!



**Supporting Special Educational
Needs and Disability:
A short guide for parents**



Building
stronger
families

READY TO LEARN EVERY DAY!

Some children have a learning difficulty or disability that makes it harder for them to learn.. These children will need extra help from their school for a short time or throughout their time in education. It is important that we recognise that all children are different and have the right to be supported to achieve their potential.

A child has a Special Educational Need or Disability if they have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age or have a disability which prevents or hinders their use of the facilities generally provided for others of their age.

This leaflet has been created jointly by NAHT and Family Action to provide some helpful information on supporting your child's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). It is specifically focused on support for children and young people in Secondary Education without an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

Where to find help and information:



- Talk to School - If you think your child might need extra help or support with their education the first step is to talk to their school. The school will listen to your concerns and discuss how they can best help. They will tell you if they are making 'special educational provision' for your child
- Next Steps - If the school identifies that your child has special educational needs, they will contact you to discuss what type of support to offer your child. They will explain why they think your child might need extra support and what will happen next
- The 'Local Offer' - You can contact your Local Authority for information, advice and support about your child's SEND. Each Local Authority produces a 'Local Offer' - a resource designed to help you and your child understand what support and services are available in your area
- The 'SEND Report' - Your child's school will have a 'SEND Information Report' that explains the type of support they provide for children with SEND and details about how the school involves children and their parents or carers in any decisions. You can find this report on the school website or by contacting the school
- Dissatisfaction - If you are unhappy or disagree with your child's SEND plan you can discuss this with the school who will try their best to reach an agreement. If reaching an agreement is difficult you can ask your Local Authority for help



Tips on supporting your child:

- Exams - If you are worried about how your child's SEND may affect their performance in exams, talk to the school about whether they are entitled to extra time, a prompt or a scribe to help them to perform at their best.
- Decision Making With Children - Encourage your child to contribute to decisions about the support they need and to express their feelings about how well it is helping them. Children and their parents or carers have a right to be involved in these decisions.
- Informing Children - Ensure your child knows that they are entitled to free impartial information and advice about their needs to help them to contribute to decisions - (for instance through the local Information, Advice and Support Services Network www.iassnetwork.org.uk)
- Extra-Curricular Activities - Talk to the school about what extra activities or services they provide for your child's particular needs. For instance, if your child is on the autistic spectrum they may be able to attend a nurture group to help them to develop friendships.
- Bullying - If you are worried that your child might be bullied as a result of a diagnosis talk to the school about their bullying prevention strategies and how they ensure all children are treated fairly. You can find the school's behaviour policy on the school website. **Every school has a duty to tackle bullying whatever its form.**



Simply keep talking to your child about how proud you are of them and find ways to recognise their achievements

Other Sources of Information:

- Advisory Centre for Education www.ace-ed.org.uk
- Department for Education www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education
- The National Network of Parent Carer Forums www.nnpfc.org.uk
- The National SENDIAS network www.iassnetwork.org.uk



Family Action is a charity committed to building stronger families by delivering innovative and effective services and support that reaches out to many of the UK's most vulnerable people. We seek to empower people and communities to address their issues and challenges through practical, financial and emotional help.

www.family-action.org.uk



NAHT is a professional association and trades union with members in all phases of education. We represent 28,500 school leaders in their quest to develop great schools and improve the lives of children.

www.naht.org.uk

