

How children with Special Educational Needs are supported in Early Years Settings



For most pre-school children extra help will be provided in the setting, managed by the supervisor, this could be by differentiating the curriculum to make it accessible to each individual child. Different approaches would need to be taken for children at Early Action, Early Action Plus or in accordance with Statements of Special Educational Needs.

Early Action

Early Years Action is followed when the pre-school setting has recognised that your child may need help which is additional to or different from the usual curriculum, The supervisor/manager will involve the Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). In consultation with you, the SENCO and the supervisor will draw up an Individual Development Plan for your child. This plan, known as an IDP, is a sort of action plan and sets out

- ◇ Your child's strengths
- ◇ Long term aims and short term targets for him/her to achieve
- ◇ Details of who will work with your child and what materials/activities might be needed
- ◇ When the IEP will be reviewed

The IDP will be devised in partnership with you. You may be given some tasks to do at home with your son and daughter as part of the IDP. Your child's progress will be monitored and you will continue to be involved. The IDP will be reviewed at least twice a year and you will be invited to take part in that review.

Early Action Plus

Despite having received additional support and an individualised programme of Early Action, if your child is still not making significant progress the setting may decide to involve outside professionals such as an educational psychologist, speech and language therapist or other health professionals. These professionals can advise the setting on how to work with your child, they may provide an additional specialist assessment or they may work directly with the child. They will help to set new targets for your child's IDP.

There is no minimum or maximum amount of time that a child is expected to spend at Early Action or Early Action Plus. However, your child's progress should be monitored and reviewed regularly and targets revised to reflect progress through the IDP.

After some time at Early Action Plus it may be felt that the Local Authority (LA) should carry out a **statutory (legal) assessment** of SEN. Only a very small number of children will have needs so severe and complex that a Statement of Special Educational Needs is required. Any such decision is made in consultation with you. It is at this stage that the LEA will become involved for the first time.

If you need further information, please contact Parent Partnerships at 11 Orchard Street, Newport
Isle of Wight, PO30 1JZ.

Tel/Fax: 01983 825548. E-mail: parentpartnership@iow.gov.uk

Website: www.iwpp.co.uk



6 weeks	The LA receives the request and decides YES or NO
10 weeks	The LA carries out a Statutory Assessment and decides whether to issue a Statement or not to issue a Statement
2 weeks	The LA: issues the proposed statement or Issues a Note in Lieu
8 weeks	If a proposed statement has been issued the LA: Has discussions with the parents on it Sends out the final statement
Total	26 weeks