



# **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Support for Early Years children with SEND  
who live in Wokingham  
Information for Parents

Contact us on

[earlyyears@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@wokingham.gov.uk)

It can be an overwhelming and confusing time when you first realise your child may have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). You may be concerned that nurseries and schools don't understand your child's needs.

The EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Framework and SEND (Special Educational and Disabilities) code of Practice aims to support your child throughout their early years experiences so that they can have the best start.

All children learn and develop in a unique way and at different speeds to other children.

Having special educational needs means that your child needs additional support in order to achieve the best educational and other outcomes, and can become confident and able to communicate their needs.

### **How do settings provide support for my child?**

Each setting must identify a member of staff who coordinates the support offered to children in their setting who have SEND, this is called the SENCo.

If you have concerns that your child may need additional support to access the Early Years curriculum you should ask to speak to the setting's SENCo.

In collaboration with parents the setting will assess your child's needs, in Wokingham we provide settings with a tool to do this, the Early Years Developmental Journal (EYDJ) is a checklist of skills so that settings can identify if there are gaps or delays in your child's development.

If gaps or delays are pinpointed the setting will look in detail at these and identify outcomes to work towards. They will put in place additional provision to help your child achieve these outcomes. A plan will be written called an Individual Education Plan (IEP)

After 6 weeks the setting will review the outcomes and the provision and either identify new outcomes if these have been achieved or adapt provision. This is known as the assess, plan, do, review cycle.

### **What support is available to settings?**

If the setting your child attends needs additional support to identify outcomes and provision that would be appropriate, they can request Early Years SEND support from the Early Years Service.

This could be

- Surgery style discussion via TEAMS, telephone or face to face
- Observation or play based assessment in the setting
- Meetings with parents
- Training/drop in advice

The Early Years Team consists of an Educational Psychologist, Early Years Area SENCo and Early Years Advisors. Once settings have requested support they are allocated the most appropriate member of the team to support them.

The setting can only access support from the Early Years team regarding individual children with parental permission.

### **Additional funding?**

If the provision provided by the setting is over and above what would be ordinarily available the setting can apply for Early Years Inclusion Funding (EYIF)

This will provide additional funds so that the setting can provide additional provision to support your child.

### **Education Health and care Plan**

If your child has needs which require long term support you can apply for an Education Health and Care Needs assessment. If your request is accepted, the Local authority will assess your child's needs and decide if they require an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

Information about applying for an EHCP can be found on the local offer.

[Education, Health and Care \(EHC\) needs assessment - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

### **Portage Support**

If your child has complex needs you may be allocated a Portage Teacher who will work with you at home to support and encourage their development. Your portage teacher will also visit your child at their EY setting to ensure a holistic approach. Portage Teachers are allocated via our Early Years Support Panel (EYSP) and are referred by health professionals. If you feel you need this level of support you should discuss this with your Health Visitor or Paediatrician.

### **Speech and Language Needs**

If your child has speech and language development needs and are awaiting an assessment by a speech therapist the setting can access a monthly surgery to discuss Speech and language needs in their setting with a speech therapist. Although not specific to your child, their needs may form part of this discussion and relevant strategies suggested which will benefit your child.

### **ASD**

If you are concerned that your child has social communication difficulties you can self refer to the ASD diagnostic pathway ([Make a referral to the children, young people and families service in Berkshire \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)) or contact your health visitor via their CHAT Health text service on 07312 263283.

If your child presents with social communication and interaction needs and is on the ASD diagnostic pathway or has an ASD diagnosis you can access support from ASSIST and Parenting Special Children for courses and workshops

[Wokingham Directory | ASSIST Team \(Autism Spectrum Service for Information Support and Training\) Home Page - PSC \(parentingspecialchildren.co.uk\)](#)

### **Local groups for children with SEND**

Wiggly worms, group for children on ASD diagnostic pathway, Brambles children's centre, Thursday 9.30-11.30

Contact [Katherine.fudge@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:Katherine.fudge@wokingham.gov.uk) to book a place

Ladybirds, group for under 5's with SEND, every other Friday morning term time only

[Charity | Building For The Future | England \(bftf.org.uk\)](https://www.bftf.org.uk)

### **Specialist Nursery provision**

Dingley's Promise is a specialist nursery setting, they have 3 centres, Wokingham, Reading and Newbury

Many children attend both Dingley's Promise and a mainstream setting

[Dingley's Promise](#)