

Who's who in the assessment world of SEND

Educational Psychologist (EP): The role of the Educational Psychologist is to assess psychological and educational development problems encountered by children and young people in education, which may involve learning difficulties and social or emotional problems. Their aim is to enhance a child's learning and enable teachers to become more aware of the social factors affecting the teaching and learning for the child.

Occupational Therapist (OT): The role of the Occupational Therapist is to work with children who have difficulties with the practical and social skills necessary for their everyday life. Through assessment and appropriate intervention programs their aim is to enable a child to be as physically, psychologically and socially independent as possible.

Physiotherapist: The role of the Physiotherapist is to assess and manage children and young people with movement disorders, disability or illness. Their aim is to help the child/young person to reach their full potential through providing physical intervention, advice and support.

Specialist Teachers (ST): The role of the Specialist Teacher (usually works for the LA and commissioned by the school) is to choose and use appropriate assessments and interpret the results to make detailed recommendations for external exam requirements and suggestions for intervention programmes for ASS and EHC Plan. They are fully qualified and experienced teachers who have undergone additional post-graduate training in specific learning difficulties or SEN.

Speech and Language Therapists (SLT): The role of a Speech and Language Therapist is to work with parents/carers and schools to assess if a child has speech and/or language difficulties, communication or eating and drinking or swallowing difficulties. Through assessment and appropriate intervention programs their aim is to enable a child to reach their full communication or eating and drinking potential.

Where can I, as a parent, get help and support?

As soon as your child is receiving extra support, additional SEN support (ASS), the SENCO should provide you with information about the local Parent Partnership Service, who will be able to help, guide and support you through any difficulties or problems you may be finding. If they don't know, then they have to find out for you, as it is part of their role and a requirement of the SEND Code of Practice.

The school should be able to help and support you but unfortunately this is not always the case. There will be good support groups in your area and you will find that you are not the only one to face these difficulties. Others have gone before you and have gained the knowledge on the way to help you through what can be a

frustrating and very emotional time for you and your child, you don't have to do it alone!

There are some very good and informative websites such as;

IPSEA Independent Parental Special Education Advice (a charity) have a range of advice lines, sound legal information on your rights as a parent and letter templates to help you make your point clearly - a very informative site.

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk>

<https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/>

GOV.UK has useful information on special needs together with good links to other national and local network help lines.

<https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/overview>

<https://www.sendirect.org.uk>

Your child may have very specific educational needs, however all the major charities, associations and organisations that will be able to relate to your child's needs will have local contacts on their web sites.

Glossary of terms used in schools in relation to special education needs

ASS

Additional **SEN** Support

CAMHS

Child and **A**dolescent **M**ental **H**ealth **S**ervices - NHS.

DSA

Disabled **S**tudent **A**llowance.

EFA

Education **F**und **A**gency.

EHC Plan

Educational **H**ealth **C**are Plan.

EYFS

Early Years Foundation Stage.

JSNA

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

LA

Local Authority.

LEA

Local Education Authority.

LSA

Learning Support Assistant.

MAPP

Multi Agency Provision Plan.

Ofsted

Office for standards in education.

OT

Occupational Therapist .

PRU

Pupil Referral Unit.

SCE

Service Children's Education.

SEN

Special Educational Needs.

SENCO

Special Educational Needs Coordinator.

SEND

Special Educational Needs & Disability code of practice: 0-25.

SLT

Speech & Language Therapist.

ST

Specialist Teacher.

SMART Targets

This means that the goal/targets set for a child are: **S**pecific (detailed method/approach to task); **M**easurable (evidence possible); **A**chievable (fair in relation to the child's ability); **R**elevant/Realistic (importance in child's needs); **T**ime-bound (set a time limit for re-assessment).

TA

Teaching Assistant.

VSH

Virtual School Head.