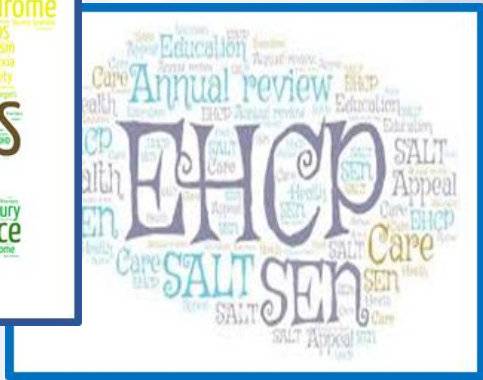


# Making sense of SEND

## Am I the only one worrying about SEND?





# Making sense of SEND

## Am I the only one worrying about SEN?



The short answer is **NO!** Just over 14% of the school population have special educational needs (SEN), around 1.23 million children in the UK. At Heyhouses we currently have around 70 children receiving SEN support so you are definitely not alone.

All parents want to give their child the best possible start and see them develop into a happy, confident and successful adult. However, there may be times when your child seems to be having difficulty in mastering a new skill or seems slow in a particular area of development. As a parent you will want to know whether this is normal or whether it is something you should be concerned about.

It can be particularly worrying if other children you know seem to be developing more quickly than your child. It is important to remember that All children develop in different ways and at different times.







# Making sense of SEND

## Am I the only one worrying about SEN?

### How will I recognise that my child has difficulties?

Parents know their child better than anyone else and will usually be the first people to notice that something is not quite right.

These are some of the things parents say to us:

- my child seems different from other children
- My child always plays with the same things or plays on their own most of the time
- My child seems to be behind and is not as independent as other children
- My child can't do the things my older child did at this age
- My child tends to wander around a lot and doesn't seem to settle to anything
- we can't understand anything my child says
- My child doesn't listen when the whole group is asked to do something
- My child can't share
- My child wants my attention all the time
- My child often gets upset and is difficult to console or has tantrums
- My child doesn't seem able to hold a paintbrush or build with bricks like other children his age





# Making sense of SEND

## Am I the only one worrying about SEN?

### What should I do if I'm worried about my child's development?

If you have any worries about your child's development or have noticed any of the things described above, speak to your child's class teacher, or ask to speak to the Special Needs Coordinator working in your child's Key Stage. You can also make an appointment to speak with your GP. Make some notes before speaking to staff or professionals so that you have clear examples of what you are worried about. It is important to check out if the difficulties are significant and, if so, how your child can be helped.

### Suppose I am worrying unnecessarily, I don't want people to think I'm a fussy parent

Checking out things that are worrying you is not being a fussy parent, it's being a good parent. Children do develop at different rates and although some are 'slow starters' this doesn't necessarily mean there is a long-term difficulty. However, if your child does have a real difficulty then the earlier it is picked up the better, because then your child can get the help he/she needs.







# Making sense of SEND

## Am I the only one worrying about SEN?

### What specialist services are there?

There are many kinds of specialist services available. These include community paediatricians who specialise in child development, a sleep and behaviour clinic, an eye unit, an audiology clinic, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy, to name just a few.

Sometimes school can make a referral for your child, sometimes you can refer into a service yourself and on some occasions you may need your GP to make the first contact.

Specialist services are usually very busy and you may have to wait a little while for an appointment. When you get an appointment time, do keep it because you may have to wait a long time for another one. When you see the specialist, pass on as much information as you can about your child. As a parent you may have noticed something which others are not aware of. If further action is needed the specialist will be able to arrange this or may make suggestions as to how you can help your child at home.





# Making sense of SEND

## Am I the only one worrying about SEN?

**I have been told that my child may have special educational needs, what does this mean?**

Special Educational Needs (SEN) means that your child has a difficulty in learning or has emotional, behavioural, sensory or physical problems, or has problems with communication.

For many, the difficulties are temporary, but a small number of children have difficulties that are more complex and long-term.

If your child has significant SEN, the school or paediatrician will ask your permission to inform the local authority (LA). The LA will then decide whether to make a statutory assessment of your child's SEN. The purpose of this would be to make a detailed assessment of all your child's difficulties and may result in an Education and Health Care Plan.

If the LA decides to make an assessment of your child's SEN, they will arrange for an educational psychologist to visit him/her, either at home or at their school.





# Making sense of SEND

## Am I the only one worrying about SEN?

### What is an educational psychologist?

An educational psychologist is a qualified psychologist who is a specialist in understanding how children learn. They work very closely with schools and early years settings, advising about SEN, observing and assessing children who have difficulties and suggesting suitable learning programmes. You will be asked to give written permission before the educational psychologist assesses your child and will have a chance to talk to him/her after the assessment.

### An Education and Health Care Plan

If the LA completes an assessment and identifies that your child is going to require more specific help at school, they may issue an Education and Health Care Plan. An **Education, Health and Care plan**

("EHC plan") is a legal document which describes a child or young person's special educational needs, the support they need, and the outcomes they would like to achieve.

