



One-minute guide

Special Educational Needs and Disability

What should you do if you are worried about your child's development?

Children develop at different rates and are unique in their own interests, personality and family situation. For example, a first-born child may learn to be more independent at an earlier age than their younger sibling. However, if you have concerns that your child is developing or learning at a pace that appears to be outside of a typical range for their age group, you can talk to someone. Your GP or Health Visitor will be able to give you advice, reassurance and help to plan for any necessary next steps.

In addition to your GP, if your child is older and attends a pre-school or school, talk to their key worker, teacher or special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO). There is a SENCO in all pre-school and school settings. Families with children from birth to 19 years old can also telephone the NHS Surrey-wide 0-19 Advice Line on: 01883 340 922. The advice line is available from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) and provides support on all aspects of child health, development and parenting. You can also visit their website; [Children's Health Surrey website](#)

What does SEND mean?

SEND is an abbreviation for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This includes all types of additional support that may be required to help your child develop and learn so that they can reach their maximum potential. SEND advice and support is available for children with an additional physical, health, development, learning, social, communication and/or emotional need. Some children may require additional support for just a short-term intervention while other children may require ongoing support. This will be reviewed regularly with the child, their parents/carers and all relevant practitioners involved. For some additional ongoing support your child may need an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) and/or be supported by Children's Social Care. See below for further information on EHCP and Social Care Needs Assessment.

What support is available?

There are many resources available for families when a child has an additional need. The information below can help you to find the right support for you and your family.

The L-SPA

The Learners Single Point of Access (L-SPA) has been created as part of Surrey's vision and drive to ensure that all children have access to a good quality education and receive help and support where there is a concern about the development and/or learning needs of a child, in a timely way. For further information visit; [Learners' Single Point of Access \(L-SPA\) | Surrey Local Offer](#)



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The Local Offer website

The Local Offer website is an online hub for 0 to 25 year olds with special educational needs or disability that live in Surrey. The website includes a directory of services, resources and activities as well as information on finding the right childcare, accessing education and training, post 16 support and independent living, finance and transport information. Please visit; [Surrey Local Offer](#)

Short Break Grants

Surrey County Council funds voluntary organisations and SEND schools to provide short break services, including after school clubs, holiday schemes, home-care and more. Please see their leaflet for further information; [Short Breaks leaflet \(PDF\)](#)

Online Parenting Programmes

There are free online parenting courses from understanding pregnancy to understanding teenagers, including Understanding your child with additional needs. Use the passcode ACORN to access this programme at: [Online Learning \(heiapply.com\)](#)

Support for Siblings

Family life can be a bit different for children and young people when their brother or sister has special educational needs and/or disabilities. Things like going out for the day or getting enough sleep might be more of a challenge and this can be hard for siblings to cope with. For information on help and advice both locally and online visit; [Support for siblings and young carers on Surrey Local Offer](#)

SEND Advice Surrey

Every local authority must provide an information, advice and support service in their area. They offer impartial, confidential and free support to empower parents, children and young people to fully participate in discussions and make informed decisions regarding their care, support and education. They offer telephone and email support provided by SEND trained advisors. For further information visit; [SEND Advice Surrey website](#) or contact them by telephone; 01737 737 300 or email; SENDAdvice@surreycc.gov.uk

Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Most children and young people with SEND are supported in mainstream early years settings, schools and colleges, without an EHC plan. Where parents have concerns about their child or young person's progress, despite receiving high quality SEN support, it's important to have a conversation with the school and to share these concerns. You can also talk to your child's nursery or early years setting, if your child is under 5. Similarly, if your son/daughter is at College, you should talk to the relevant professional at the College. Only a very small number of children/young people aged 0-25 have an EHC plan across the country (about 3%). These are the



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children and young people with the most complex needs. For further information on EHCP's visit; [Education, Health and Care \(EHC\) plans on Surrey Local Offer](#)

Surrey Early Support Service for young children with disabilities

The service provides early support for children aged 0 to 5 years old with complex disabilities and special needs. They help to coordinate all the services that may be involved with your child's care. For further information visit; [Surrey Early Support Service for young children with disabilities on the Surrey County Council website](#)

Registering a disabled child

Registering your child on the Surrey Children's Disability Register helps to identify and plan for the needs of children and young people with disabilities, their parents and carers. The register also operates as a contact list to provide information and consultation about short break opportunities, funded by Surrey County Council, through the Surrey Short Breaks for Disabled Children Team. Registration is voluntary and is not linked to or a requirement of receiving social care services, which are assessed separately. To register your child, please complete the [registration form \(Word\)](#). You can also email SCDR@surreycc.gov.uk or call 020 8541 8792 for more details.

Surrey social care needs assessment

Your child may be eligible for support from social services. Because they help those most in need, they first carry out an initial assessment. If this shows you are eligible, they will refer you and your family for a further assessment to find out what your needs are and if they can help. For support for children with disabilities, including registering a disabled child and arranging a care needs assessment please visit; [Support for children with disabilities on the Surrey County Council website](#)