

Croydon Parent Partnership Services

Offering independent information, advice and guidance for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs



**Courtyard House
1d Church Road
Croydon
CR0 1SG**

Tel: 020 8649 9339, option 4

Fax: 020 8686 3472

Guidelines for Parents:

What Is an Independent Parental Supporter?

Independent parental supporters (IPS) help individual parents through the Special Educational Needs (SEN) process.

All parents whose children have been identified as having Special Educational Needs can have access to an IPS if they feel it would be helpful.

The KIDS Croydon Parent Partnership Service has a register of volunteer IPSs who have attended an initial accredited training course and access regular training on SEN-related issues.

IPSs are volunteers who understand parents' concerns about their child's special educational needs. Many of them have gone through the SEN process with their own children; some have experience of SEN from the 'professional' side too; all can offer independent support to parents.

Parents who contact us and who need an IPS are carefully matched with someone who can support them. We operate a strict confidentiality policy and no information is passed to a third party without a parent or carer's consent.

Support from independent parental supporters can include:

- Assisting parents and carers in communicating with schools and other services involved with their child
- Accompanying parents and carers to meetings or reviews
- Helping parents to put their views in writing
- Reading through and discussing written documents such as letters from the local education authority, draft statements and advice
- Explaining the SEN process
- Providing a 'listening ear' for parents

If you would like to be put in contact with an IPS or are interested in becoming one, please contact the KIDS Croydon Parent Partnership Service on 020 8649 9339, option 4.