
EHC Needs Assessments

**Education Health and Care Needs
Assessments**



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What is an EHC Needs assessment?

An Education Health and Care needs assessment is used by Local Authorities to assess if your child needs an EHC plan (Educational Health and Care Plan).

It includes information about:

- You
- Your child
- The early years' setting, school or post 16 setting
- Other professionals who work with or support your child.

When is an EHC Needs Assessment necessary?

The school, early years or post 16 setting can provide help through SEN support. This means that they make additional or different provision to meet the child or young person's needs. For most children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities this is enough support to help them make progress.

Some children need more intensive and specialist support. If your child does not make progress despite the SEN support an EHC needs assessment might be the next step.

The Local Authority will look at:

- Your child's attainments and rate of progress
- Their special educational needs
- Support that has been put into place
- The difference the support has made
- Which professionals have been involved
- Your child's physical, emotional and social development and health needs.

Who can ask for an EHC Needs assessment?

- The early years setting, school or post 16 setting, once this has been discussed with yourself
- Parents by writing to the Local Authority
- A young person over the age of 16 but under the age of 25.

What needs to be submitted for a request?

Particular paperwork needs to be submitted for the an EHC Needs Assessment request, whether you go through the education setting or request an assessment on behalf of your child.

Speak to your local SENDIASS about the paperwork required to request an EHC Needs Assessment.

What happens when the Local Authority gets a request for an EHC needs assessment?

You will be notified as soon as the Local Authority receives your request for an EHC needs assessment and given a date by which they will make their decision if an assessment is needed.

The Local Authority than has six weeks to decide whether to go ahead with the assessment or not. During this time they may ask you or the education setting for information.

Once all the information required has been gathered it will be handed over to the assessment panel and they will decide:

- to start the assessment (decision to assess)
- that an EHC assessment is not necessary (decision not to assess)

They will give you the decision in writing.

What happens if the Local Authority decides that an EHC assessment is not necessary?

The local authority must tell you why it thinks that an EHC needs assessment is not needed. It must also tell you about:

- your right of appeal
- mediation services
- how to get further information, advice or support.

What happens if the EHC needs assessment goes ahead?

The local authority will ask a number of other people for information about your child.

This is called 'advice' and it should include information about:

- your child's education, health and care needs
- the desired outcomes for your child
- the special educational, health and care provision that might be required to meet their needs and achieve the desired outcomes.

The local authority must ask for advice and information from:

- your child's early years setting, school or post 16 setting
- educational psychology
- health professionals who work with your child. This might include a paediatrician, speech and language therapist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist or CAMHS (Children Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- social care professionals
- anyone else you ask them to contact who may be able to give relevant advice.
- If your child has a vision or hearing impairment the local authority must also seek information and advice from a suitably qualified teacher.

You will receive a copy of all the reports when the needs assessment is finished.

Where can I get support?

Contact your local SENDIASS

Contact your local SENDIASS to find out more about EHC needs assessments.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provides free impartial, confidential and accurate information, advice and support about education, health and social care for children, young people and their parents on matters relating to special educational needs and disability.

Visit our SENDIASS website: <https://www.kids.org.uk/sendiasm>