

Parent Guide



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games



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word searches



What is this resource and how do I use it?

Wondering what a SENDCo is? This guide aims to answer your questions about this form of SEND support. Find out what a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator is, who they support and what they can do to help your child.

What skills does this practise?

SEND Support

Parent Information

Understanding SEND

Reviewing Progress

Further Activity Ideas and Suggestions

Explore more parent guidance about SEND by visiting [this category](#) at the [Parents' Hub](#). You might want to look at this [Neurodiversity Book List](#) or learn about the potential benefits of a [sensory box](#) for your child.

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Parents Hub

Demystifying SEND Support for Parents:

SENDCo



Each school in the UK is required to have a SENDCo. Explore this guide to find out what a SENDCo does and how they can help your child.

What is a SENDCo?

A SENDCo is a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator. SENDCos, sometimes referred to as a SENCo, are qualified teachers who are responsible for special educational needs within a school. They ensure that every child with SEND has their needs met and that adjustments are made within the school when needed. They speak to parents or carers and any other outside agencies or specialists who are involved in the child's provision and progress.

SENDCos oversee the SEND provision within the school and ensure that teachers are following the **SEND Code of Practice**. Teachers are responsible for the progress of all children; the SENDCo is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school's SEND Policy, which includes:

supporting the identification of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities

coordinating provision for children with SEND

liaising with parents of children with SEND

liaising with other providers, educational psychologists and external agencies particularly for children receiving support

ensuring that the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEND up to date



What does SEND mean?

According to the **SEND Code of Practice**:

- || A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:
- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
 - has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions ||

The **Code of Practice** states that many children and young people who have SEN may have a disability under the **Equality Act 2010** – that is...

- || ...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. ||



Does my child with SEND need an EHCP?

An Education, Health and Care Plan or EHCP is a legal document that describes a child or young person's special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). An EHCP is required when a child's needs cannot be met by the usual support that is available to them in their school or setting.

Your child does not need an EHCP to receive support in school. Your child's SENDCo will aim to ensure all children with SEND have their needs met by **assessing** their needs, **planning** how to meet them, **implementing** the plans and **reviewing** your child's progress. Your child might receive additional support through interventions run by teachers or teaching assistants or perhaps equipment, such as a writing slope or pencil grip when writing.



How will a SENDCo help my child?

It is likely that, if your child has SEND, they may see the SENDCo regularly. Your child can talk to their teacher or SENDCo to help them as they begin to understand their own needs and what helps them to learn.

You, as a parent or carer, should also be made aware of who your child's SENDCo is. You may be invited to meetings with your child's SENDCo so you can discuss how your child is progressing and what else can be done to help your child meet their full potential. You know your child best, so your child's teacher and the SENDCo will be keen to use your knowledge to help them to support your child in school.

The teacher will monitor your child's progress by:

- **assessing** - looking at your child's strengths and needs
- **planning** - working out how to meet your child's needs so they can make progress
- **doing** - putting the plans in place
- **reviewing** - considering what went well and what changes might need to be made

This is called the 'graduated approach' and is overseen by the SENDCo.

You will be included in this process and asked for your feedback about the targets and progress your child has made; this may happen at parent's evening or at another time. Your child will also have the opportunity to share their views - this is sometimes called 'pupil voice'. Other professionals may also be involved in supporting your child and might be invited to some meetings too.



Who do SENDCos support?

SENDCos provide support and advice to teachers and parents about children with special educational needs and disabilities. This covers a wide range of different disabilities and conditions. Here are just a few examples:

specific learning difficulties (like dyslexia and dyspraxia)

recognised disabilities (such as having a hearing impairment)

speech and language difficulties

emotional and social difficulties

It's important to remember that children with SEND may need very little additional support, or they may need significant support and adjustments. Depending on their needs, they may only receive SEN support for a short amount of time, or they may require it throughout their educational journey.

Top Tips for Working with Your Child's SENDCo

When parents and SENDCos have a healthy working relationship, it helps to ensure that children are getting the most appropriate and well-rounded support.

Be open and honest when talking to the SENDCo about your child's challenges and strengths

Tell your child's teacher or the SENDCo about any difficulties that you've noticed that your child has so that they can begin planning support.

Read your school's SEND Policy and ask the SENDCo any questions you have.

You might find it beneficial to keep notes whenever you've had a chat or a meeting with your child's teacher or the SENDCo.

You could keep a diary where you can write about your child's diagnosis journey and record any meetings you have with their teacher or SENDCo to keep an accurate record of everything that has happened.

You may like to suggest a link book or communication book that goes between home and school. This will allow you to tell your child's teacher how things are going at home and school can keep you regularly informed.

Top Tips for Supporting Your Child

Be patient and do not put pressure on your child or yourself.

Discuss your child's specific needs with their SENDCo and ask how you can help at home and what support is in place at school. Being informed will help you to feel empowered.

Be your child's advocate and speak up if you or your child need additional support.

Give detailed praise so your child knows how proud you are of them - not for progress, but for attitude.

Join groups for parents whose children have similar needs to share practical advice and emotional support.



Disclaimers

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.

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