

Glossary of SEND terms

Early Years Team

Here is a glossary of special education needs and disability (SEND) terms

Abbreviation	Meaning
ACE	Adverse Childhood Experience
AD	Attachment Disorder is a broad term which describes the consequences of failure to form normal attachments to parents or primary caregivers in early childhood.
ADD/ADHD	Attention Deficit Disorder / Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Annual Review	Review of the EHCP, completed within the 12 months of making the plan and then on an annual basis. An interim review will be held every six months for children in Early Years .
APDR	Assess, Plan, Do, Review as part of the Graduated Approach
ARP	Additionally Resourced Provision
Early Years Area SENCo	A professional with specialist knowledge and experience in Special Educational Needs in Early Years, employed by the Local Authority to provide advice and support staff in early years' settings on the inclusion of children with SEND.
ASD/ASC	Autistic spectrum disorder - no longer used by some professional due to the connotations of disorder. Some professionals e.g. speech and language therapist use autistic spectrum condition.

Abbreviation	Meaning
ASQ	Ages and Stages Questionnaire
Baseline Assessment	A standardised assessment designed to establish the attainment level of children at a significant point
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CoP	Code of Practice
CI	Communication and Interaction
CLA	Child Looked After
CL	Cognition and Learning
CP	Child Protection
DAF	Disability Access Fund
DCD	Developmental Co-ordination Disorder
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DfE	Department for Education
DLA	Disability Living Allowance is a benefit that can be claimed by the family of a child with special needs.
DS	Down's Syndrome
Dyscalculia	A specific and persistent difficulty in understanding numbers.
Dyslexia	A specific learning disability that affects reading and writing skills and therefore impacts other areas of learning too.

Abbreviation	Meaning
EBD	Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties
EHCA	Education Health Care Assessment
EHCP	A legal document showing all the details of the education, health and social care support that is to be provided for your child/young person with SEN or disability by your Local Authority. It is for children, sometimes up to 25 years old, whose SEN needs, or disabilities impact their education.
EP	Education Psychologist
EYIF	Early Years Inclusion Fund
EYP	Early Years Practitioner (now known as ISP, Inclusion Support Practitioner)
Fine Motor	Small movements of the body e.g., holding a pencil, gripping, buttons, threading, picking something up.
GDD	Global Developmental Delay is an umbrella term for a general delay in acquiring normal developmental milestones.
Gross Motor	Large movements e.g. Running, jumping and climbing
HLTA	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Hyperactivity	Difficulty in concentrating, sitting still for any length of time, restless, fidgety and can also have issues sleeping.
Hypermobility	The ability to move joints with an increased range of motion
IEP	Individual Education Plan
ISP	Inclusion Support Practitioner

Abbreviation	Meaning
LA	Local Authority, responsible for providing education and EHCPs.
LAC	Looked After Children
Local Offer	LAs are required to publish a 'local offer'. This is intended to provide info about provisions it expects to be available to children with SEN and disabilities, in their area both in and outside of school.
HI	Hearing Impaired
ISP	Inclusion Support Practitioner
Makaton	A unique language programme that uses symbols, signs, and speech to enable people to communicate, when they cannot communicate efficiently by speaking. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression.
Mediation	Mediation is run and facilitated by an independent third party. It enables you and the LA to discuss, in an informal and confidential setting, any aspects of the LA's decision and/or the contents of an EHC plan.
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulty
Neurodivergent	A person with a mental or neurological function that differs from a neurotypical person.
OCD	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder is a mental disorder where the individual feels the need to perform certain rituals or routines (compulsions) or has repeated thoughts or obsessions which impact their daily life negatively.
ODD	Oppositional Defiance Disorder is a disorder where children have disruptive and oppositional behaviour that is particularly directed towards authority figures, such as parents or teachers.

Abbreviation	Meaning
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education. An inspection team that visits and inspects schools and Local Authorities.
OT	Occupational Therapy/Therapist
PDA	Pathological Demand Avoidance is a profile that describes those whose main characteristic is to avoid everyday demands and expectations to an extreme extent.
PECS	Picture Exchange Communication System
PEP	Personal Education Plan (for looked after children)
Provision Map	A map of support showing what a setting is providing for their SEND pupils, so parents can better understand what support is on offer, when and where from.
PT	Physiotherapist
Reasonable Adjustment	Changes that a school and other settings are required by law to ensure a child with a disability is not discriminated against.
SALT	Speech and Language Therapists provide treatment, support and care for children, and adults, who have difficulties with communication, or with eating, drinking, and swallowing.
SAS	Specialist Assessment Service – this team provide assessment, diagnosis and support services for children/young people with developmental needs including difficulties that may indicate an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and/or children/young people with complex medical needs.
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties, “Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn...., disruptive or disturbing behaviour .” (SEND code of practice).

Abbreviation	Meaning
SEN SEND	Special Educational Needs or SEND Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Special education is the practice of educating students in a way that accommodates their individual differences, disabilities, and special needs.
SENDCO	The practitioner responsible for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities within the school.
SENDIASS	SEND information, advice and support services that offer impartial advice for Parents and Carers.
SISS	<i>The Specialist Inclusion Support Service</i> works with children and young people who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Need – children may have difficulties with expressive language or receptive language and/or processing difficulties.
SLD	Severe Learning Difficulties are significant and severe issues in learning across the whole curriculum and wider life skills.
SPD	Sensory Processing Disorder
SPI Team	Sensory and Physical Impairment Team
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulty
Visual Impairment	A range of difficulties from partial sight through to blindness