

CRACKING THE CODE!

For Parents

Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and the SEND Code of Practice 2014 – a snapshot for parents

What should I do if I think my child has SLCN?



SLCN is an umbrella term

You may hear other terms or abbreviations used to describe your child, but if their difficulties impact on their speech, language and communication then it's SLCN.

Trust

Trust your instincts – you know your child better than anyone, share your concerns if you are worried.

Observe

Gather information and evidence – about your child's strengths and gaps in their speech and language skills. Video clips, audio recordings and writing things down can help you to see progress over time.

Advice

Seek advice – the sooner your child gets help, the better. Education providers and health professionals can refer to local NHS services or you can contact them directly.



SLCN & SEN Support (No EHC Plan)

→ If your child has SLCN they will be able to access help from their education or childcare setting
→ There are four stages of SEN Support, known as the 'graduated approach'

- Assess (identify need)
- Plan (agree outcomes)
- Do (support)
- Review (check progress)

SLCN & Education, Health & Care (EHC) Plans

→ If your child needs a more intensive level of specialist help, then they may need an EHC Plan
→ This brings together your child's education, health and social care needs into a single legal document
→ You can ask your Local Authority for an EHC needs assessment if you think your child needs one

Personal Budgets

→ You are entitled to request a Personal Budget if your child has an EHC plan
→ A Personal Budget is an amount of money your Local Authority has identified to meet some of the needs in your child's EHC plan
→ If you want to be involved in choosing and arranging part of the provision to meet your child's need, you will need to agree this with your Local Authority

Principles of the Code of Practice 2014

Rights

All children and young people have the right to an education that enables them to achieve their best and live fulfilling lives.

Needs

All children and young people with SLCN should have their needs met and their wishes, feelings and views should be central to this.

Participation

Children and young people must participate as fully as possible in decisions that affect them. Parents should have a say in decisions made about their child and should have access to impartial information and advice.



The Local Offer – information from your Local Authority about services across education, health and social care for children and young people with SLCN



Older than 16?
The young person can make their own decisions independent of their family if they so wish