

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN EARLY YEARS SETTINGS

All Early Years settings follow the SEN Code of Practice which provides a staged approach to Special Educational Needs. They all have a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) who will be able to talk to parents/carers who want to discuss matters relating to a child's SEN.

In Southampton, a relatively small number of nurseries are maintained by the Local Authority. Most settings are non maintained, i.e. are in the private, voluntary or independent sector. The arrangements for SEN are slightly different in maintained and non maintained sectors.

Maintained settings have qualified teachers as SENCos. Maintained settings attached to schools receive some money to support children with SEN as part of their budgets.

Non maintained settings all receive support from an Early Years Support Teacher/Area SENCo (EYST). This is a qualified teacher with particular expertise in SEN. Early Years Support Teachers can recommend children or settings for Inclusion Support Grants (Sure Start funding) to help meet children's SEN and support the Early Years SENCos to meet children's needs.

The majority of children with SEN will have their needs met through the systems outlined above. A small number of children will have more complex needs and might be put forward for consideration of additional funding from the council's retained SEN budget. This funding is allocated via a Panel of professionals who meet half-termly. Children to be considered by the Panel must have evidence of SEN and this will be detailed in professional reports, one of which must be written by an Education professional.

The support funded by the SEN Team comes in several forms:

1) Local SEN Support Package

Additional money will be allocated to the setting the child attends and the child's progress will be carefully monitored by qualified and experienced staff from the Local Authority (mainly the Early Years Support Teacher/Area SENCo).

2) A place at an SEN Funded Setting

There are 7 SEN Funded Settings, all of which have extensive experience of supporting children with SEN alongside children without SEN. The council's SEN budget funds these Centres for an agreed number of children with SEN each year. The Centres have good links with a range of professionals supporting children with SEN, including Speech and Language Therapists and Educational Psychologists.

The SEN Funded Centres are:

Hardmoor Early Years Centre	Leaside Way Bassett Green Southampton SO16 3EP
Fairisle Nursery	Fairisle Road Lordshill Southampton SO16 8BY
Stephen's Pre-school	Oakley Road Shirley Southampton SO16 4LJ
Maytree Nursery	Derby Road Southampton SO14 0DY
Riverside Pre-school	Manor Farm Road Bitterne Park Southampton SO18 1NX
Start Point Sholing	Wood Close Sullivan Road Sholing Southampton SO19 0SG
The Shore Pre-school	Foxcott Close Weston Southampton SO19 9JQ

3) A place at a Specialised EY Setting

These are Cedar School (physical difficulties), Rosewood School (profound and multiple learning difficulties), Weston Shore Early Learning Group (specific speech and language difficulties).

Parent/carer preference will be an important (but not the only) factor that the Early Years Panel will consider when deciding on the form of support offered to eligible children.

Often parents/carers will need to decide on expressing a preference between a local SEN Support Package or an SEN Funded Centre. In making this decision, they might find it helpful to consider the points below.

	Possible Advantages	Possible Disadvantages
Local SEN Support Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased likelihood of a very local placement. • Child likely to progress to same school as other children at setting. • If child already in setting when issue of extra support is raised, the child may be able to receive support without moving. • Many settings have a positive attitude to developing their expertise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child may have to attend clinic in order to access some Health support required, e.g. Speech and Language Therapy. • Practitioners in a setting may require training to meet your child's needs.
SEN Funded Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes a child who requires certain Health support, e.g., Speech and Language Therapy, is able to receive this more effectively at the SEN funded setting. • Centres have built up expertise in working with complex SEN. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless the child lives close to the SEN funded setting, the child may later go to a different school from the other children and so have to make new friends.

Useful Contacts:

Early Years Support Teachers/Area SENCOs

Start Point Sholing

Wood Close

Sullivan Road

Sholing

Southampton

SO19 0SG

Tel: 023 8036 3309

E-mail: jill.lakeman@southampton.gov.uk

Specialist Teaching and Advisory Service

Cedar School Annexe

Redbridge Lane

Southampton

SO16 0XN

Tel: 023 8073 2903

E-mail: maureen.richards@cedar.southampton.sch.uk

Southampton Psychology Service

5th Floor, Frobisher House
Nelson Gate
Southampton
SO15 1BZ
Tel: 023 8083 3105
E-mail: isabella.robinson@southampton.gov.uk

SEN Team

4th Floor (South)
Marland House (off Civic Centre Road)
Southampton
SO14 7PQ
Tel: 023 8083 3270
E-mail: amanda.smith@southampton.gov.uk

Southampton Parent Partnership

187a Portswood Road
Southampton
SO17 2NF
Tel: 023 8055 7607
E-mail: admin@southamptonmencap.co.uk

Southampton Children and Young People's Information Service

www.youngsouthampton.org
Tel: 0800 169 8833
E-mail: cypis@southampton.gov.uk