



# The Early Years



All publicly funded pre-schools and nurseries must have regard for the 'Special Educational Needs Code of Practice' which gives practical guidance on identifying and meeting additional needs, 'step by step' with a graduated response.

**How will my child's  
Special Educational  
Needs be met in  
playgroup or nursery?**

**“I’m really worried and the Nursery is concerned about my child’s progress. What will happen next?”**

All children are different. The first thing to do is arrange a meeting within the Early Years setting to discuss concerns and work out the best ways to support your child. The nursery may contact the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) and together you may decide your child needs additional support.

### **“What is a SENCO?”**

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) offers advice and support to members of staff and parents. The SENCO will gather information in discussion with you and arrange appropriate support for your child if necessary. This is called Early Years Action. This ‘action’ may mean different materials or equipment, small groups, individual support for your child or training for staff.

The action will be recorded in an individual educational plan (IEP). The action will help your child develop and progress to his or her full potential.



## **“My little boy has to have an individual educational plan. He’s only three, what does this mean?”**

If despite additional support or action your child is not making the expected progress then the SENCO (with your agreement) will consult other professionals and may involve external support services. These external services could be from health, speech therapy, educational psychology or a specialist teacher. They will help with assessing and meeting your child’s needs by giving specialist advice. This is called Early Years Action Plus.

### **Statutory Assessment**

Usually, the additional action taken is successful, however a very small number of children with significant difficulties may require their needs to be considered in greater depth. This is completed through a Statutory Assessment where the Local Authority gathers detailed information from a range of professionals that may be involved with your child. As a parent you are the prime source of information and the LA will involve you fully as a partner in this process.

If the information collected confirms that your child has significant difficulties, then a Statement of your child’s Special Educational Needs may be issued.

A statement will identify and record all the additional support needed.

### **Further information can be found in:-**

- The National Assembly for Wales - “Special Educational Needs A Guide for Parents”
- “The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales 2002” - Available free of charge

### **You may also see the following words, these are replacing the term Special Educational Needs**

- **Additional Learning Needs**
- **Additional Educational Needs**
- **Additional Needs**

## You know your child best

All families have legitimate concerns about the provision and support for their children; this is particularly so when they have complex needs. As families you know your child best.

In addition children and young people with Special Educational Needs have a unique knowledge of their own needs and circumstances and have their own views about what sort of help they'd like and what they'd like to achieve in the future.

## About SNAP Cymru

**SNAP Cymru delivers Parent Partnership Services in Wales and offers accurate information, impartial advice, support and key-workers for families of children and young people who have, or may have, Special Educational Needs and or a Disability. The SNAP Cymru service is free, confidential and impartial. SNAP Cymru also provides a formal disagreement resolution service and independent issue based advocacy for children and young people.**



**Helpline: 0808 801 0608**

**Email: [helpline@snapcymru.org](mailto:helpline@snapcymru.org)**

**[www.snapcymru.org](http://www.snapcymru.org)**