

Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP)

What is an EHCP and why does my child need one?

It is a legal document detailing what your child needs to support them in their education and with their health and care needs.

It is rather like a very large Individual Education Plan with targets set for what it is felt is realistic for your child to achieve over the next year.

It provides funding linked to your child's needs to support your child in school. Schools are already allocated funding for special needs children and this money tops this funding up to make sure they have the support they need. This could be a 1:1 support, resources, etc.

How do we apply for an EHCP?

As your child is in a resourced nursery I will apply for the educational health care plan. I fill out a detailed report on your child. I will also ask for your knowledge of your child as you know them best and also for your child's views. (I have a special sheet for this.)

My application is usually supported by other professionals such as speech therapy, Edwin Lobo Centre, ASD service. An educational psychologist has to see your child either before the application or after the application. Depending on if I have evidence from other professionals. So it is vitally important any reports you have from services you pass on to me.

Once I have applied we will be notified if I have been successful or not in my application.

What happens once we have been successful in this application?

A meeting is called with a special educational needs assessment team officer (SENAT) at a date convenient to all. Invited to the meeting are yourselves as parents, me as SENCO, the SENAT officer and other professionals involved with your child.

These professionals have to provide educational advice for your child as to what they need and targets they could achieve in a year's time. You are also asked for your advice on what you feel your child could also achieve.

The draft plan is formed at this meeting taking in all this advice and it is at this meeting where you specify the school you would like to go to. Either one of the schools you applied for or a Special School.

SENAT then contacts these schools to see if your child would fit there for their education

After the meeting

You will be sent the draft plan within a number of days and you then have 15 days to make any changes you feel need to be made if any. If you make any changes you send it back to SENAT if not they assume you are happy with the report.

The final report is then sent out after a few weeks and this is now a legal document for your child. The school your child attends has to follow this plan. It will indicate how many hours of support your child is entitled to and the school needs to honour this.

Every year the plan is reviewed.