

The Early Years Teaching and Support Service





The Service aims to:

- **provide support to pre-school children with special educational needs and their families;**
- **ensure that early identification, assessment and intervention are made for children with special educational needs;**
- **provide support to early years settings, including childminders, pre-schools and nurseries, as well as schools to help individual children achieve their potential; and**
- **work closely with other agencies and professionals, including paediatricians, speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists to provide co-ordinated support for children, families, settings and schools.**

We:

- **Are a specialist early years team made up from a variety of professionals with a wide range of skills and qualifications, including teaching, psychology, pre-school practitioners and social care.**
- **Have many years experience in working with children in the early years and a great deal of knowledge in speech and language development, autistic spectrum disorder, physical/neurological disabilities, interactive play and assistive communication techniques.**
- **We work across the county in geographically based teams.**

**Denise Ford, Head of Early Years Teaching & Support Service
Tel: 01892 655244**

**Eastbourne Area
3rd Floor, St Mark's
House, 14 Upperton
Road, Eastbourne
BN21 1EP
Tel: 01323 747471**

**Wealden Area
Holy Cross CE
Primary School,
1 Belmont Road,
Uckfield TN22 1BP
Tel: 01825 766641**

**Hastings & Rother Area
Sidley Community
Centre, 121 Ninfield
Road, Bexhill-on-Sea
TN39 5BD
Tel: 01424 733753**

We are able to:

- **listen to your concerns and plan together the best way to help your child;**
- **offer support and advice to help you to understand your child's special needs assess and monitor your child's development and progress;**
- **plan for transition from home into pre-school and from pre-school into school;**
- **work with you and your child in a variety of ways which may include play-based assessment, showing and advising others to enable them to teach and support your child and direct teaching; and**
- **provide training**



Referrals

We will consider referrals for a child who has one or more of the following difficulties where they create a significant barrier to learning/inclusion.

- Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties.**
- Physical delay/disability.**
- Autism/Social communication difficulties.**
- Global developmental delay.**
- Severe speech, language and communication difficulties.**
- Syndromes and associated neurological conditions.**
- Complex medical needs.**
- Behavioural difficulties, which arise from one of the above.**

We are happy to receive referrals from parents, health professionals, pre-schools and other agencies but always with parental consent.

The Early Years Service will offer an introductory visit as soon as possible after receipt of referral.

What we can offer you at home:

- **During the first home visit, members of the team will listen to your concerns about your child's development. We may play with your child and through observations and discussions with you will begin the process of building a picture of your child's development and learning needs.**
- **As we continue to visit your child at home and/or pre-school, we will talk with you about your child's progress and how your child's special needs may affect his or her educational development. We will give you a written record of what we have discussed and at times may also give you other literature and resources which may be of help.**
- **We have well-established links with other professionals, particularly those in the Health Authority and, with your permission, may talk to other professionals involved with your child (eg, speech and language therapist, paediatrician, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, etc) to contribute to a wider picture of your child's needs.**
- **As your child approaches school age, we will be able to give you information on what options there are for school and what extra help may be provided. For some children with very significant educational needs, an in-depth statutory assessment before they start school may be recommended, to clarify precisely what their educational needs are and whether further additional support is required.**
- **We may also act as keyworkers for your family within the Early Support**

Programme.

What we can offer your child in their pre-school

We may also visit your child at pre-school. Here we will be able to see how your child responds in a different setting and how he/she develops socially. We will be able to offer advice to the pre-school on ways to help your child's learning and will give you feedback on this.

Training on aspects of special educational needs is offered to pre-school staff through the year.

We will work with you and staff within the pre-school settings and other agencies to draw up an individual education plan (IEP) for your child.

Frequency of visits

The frequency of visiting children, either in the preschool setting, or at home, will vary according to your child and family's needs, on what is happening for your

child at that particular time and whether other agencies are involved.

Once your child is in pre-school, visits will normally be made in that setting, with just occasional home visits or telephone liaison.

Planning for school

During the term before your child is due to start school, we can arrange a meeting with school staff, together with other people who have been supporting your child, for example Speech and Language Therapist, Pre-School staff, etc. We will share ideas and put together an plan to assist a smooth transition to school.

What we can offer during the early days at school

If your child takes up a place at a mainstream school, we will liaise with school staff during the first few terms, to enable a smooth transition.



How you can help us

We are always keen to hear your views and suggestions about the service. If you have any feedback, either written or verbal, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We also send out questionnaires and surveys from time to time.

All East Sussex County Council employees have regard to the County Council's child protection guidance.

We always try to respect your wishes about sharing information with other people. We will not share information about you or your child with anyone outside the nursery or East Sussex County Council's Children's Services without your permission unless the law permits it.

