

The Educational Psychology Service

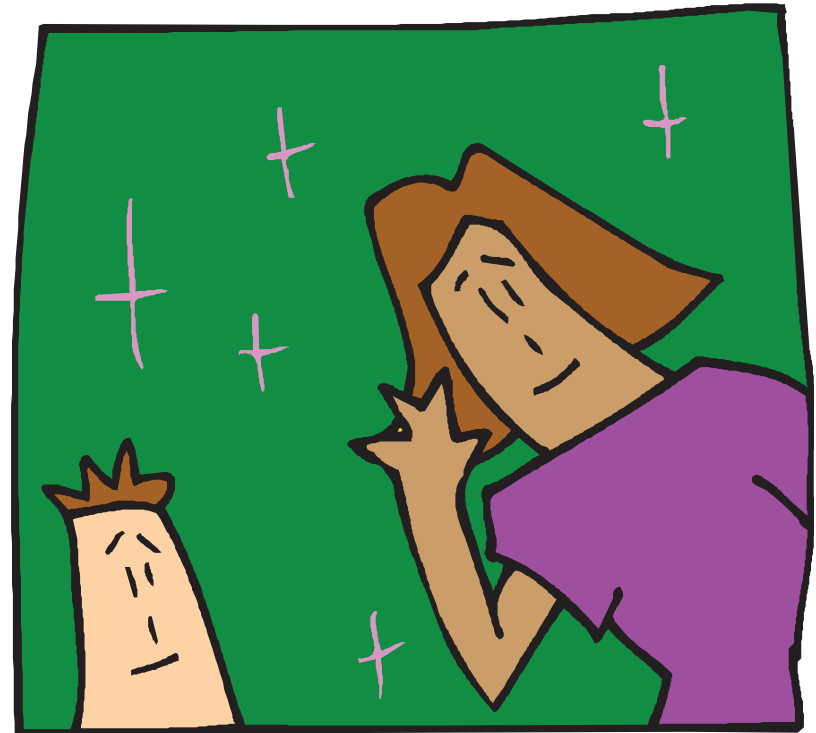


The Parent Advice Service

If you would like an opportunity to talk about your child with an educational psychologist, you can make an appointment to see one at our Parent Advice Service. This runs from either 2-4 pm or 4-6pm every Wednesday during term time in the Technology and Learning Centre (TLC). It is open to all Hackney parents.

Please ring the service to make an appointment on 020 8820 7518/9

The Educational Psychology Service
The Learning Trust
1 Reading Lane
London E8 1GQ
(The TLC is next to Hackney Town Hall and opposite Ocean on Mare Street).



Supporting children, parents, carers and schools

Educational Psychologists (also called EPs or Ed Psychs)

Educational psychologists have professional qualifications in psychology and educational psychology – the study of how children develop, learn and behave. They are also trained and experienced teachers. EPs see children and young people from birth to 19.

They help ensure that:

- children with special educational needs who are having difficulties at school receive the right sort of help
- very young children, who might have special educational needs and might need extra help, get the support they need, either before or when they start school



The Educational Psychology Service

The Educational Psychology Service is part of The Learning Trust. All educational psychologists are employed by The Learning Trust. The Educational Psychology Service is open to all children and families living in Hackney. This includes those children not yet in school, those out of school and those children at school in other boroughs. Each of the schools in Hackney has an allocated educational psychologist who visits regularly.

The way educational psychologists work and what they do, will depend on the problem but educational psychologists:

- will never see a child without parents' permission
- will always involve parents when considering how best to help a child
- are happy for parents to be accompanied by an interpreter or friend, if it helps

Educational Psychologists and the Code of Practice

The Code of Practice was introduced by the government in 1994 and was revised in January 2002. It says that all children with special educational needs should be identified and supported by schools, nurseries and playgroups and recommends how this should be done.

The term 'special educational needs' refers to difficulties in both learning and behaviour.

Every school in Hackney is given money by The Learning Trust to support children who need it.

The Code of Practice recommends that the level of support must match the child's needs - so the greater the child's needs, the more support they should get in their school, nursery or play group.

If you want to know more about the Code of Practice stages, ask your child's school for an information leaflet or ring the Educational Psychology Service.

Getting support for your child

If your child is having difficulties at school, first talk to your child's teacher or head teacher. The school may decide to follow the levels in the Code of Practice to help your child.

Your child's teachers, with your help and the help of your child, will draw up a plan of action and set reviews of your child's progress. The school may ask you to help at home.



If after some time your child does not make progress, despite help, they may ask an educational psychologist to suggest ways of helping.

With parents' permission, an educational psychologist may:

- work with teachers - if a child is at school
- or key workers - if a child is at a nursery or playgroup
- observe a child or work with a child individually
- contact other professionals who know the child well, for example, professionals in Health and
- will always see parents in order to share ideas and plan programmes to help a child make progress.

They may then:

- suggest ways you can help your child at home or ways your child's school, teachers or keyworker could help
- refer to another agency e.g. speech and language therapist for further advice
- recommend the school or nursery provides extra support



Contacting an Educational Psychologist

If your child is having difficulties at school, first go to your child's teacher or head teacher.

If your child is not at school or nursery, and you are worried about their development or behaviour, you should discuss this with your health visitor or doctor.