

A powerful say for parents, carers
and their children with special
educational needs and disabilities

hackney
parent
partnership
service

does my child have special educational needs?

What to do when you
are worried about your
child's progress



www.learningtrust.co.uk

Children make progress at different rates and have different ways in which they learn best. Teachers are expected to take this into account when they organise their lessons, the classroom, the books and materials they use, and the way that they teach. This is called **differentiating the curriculum**.

This leaflet explains what is meant by special educational needs.

We are here for you

You may also find it useful to talk to someone from Hackney Parent Partnership Service.

Hackney Parent Partnership Service
Hackney Ark, Downs Park Road
London E8 2HY
T. 020 7014 7123
E. parentpartnership@hackneyark.chpct.nhs.uk



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Children who are making slower progress or having difficulties in one area may be given extra help or different lessons to help them succeed.

Schools follow the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies, which also provide for children to learn to read and write and to understand numbers in different ways and at different speeds, including special 'catch-up' work and other kinds of support.

If your child is making slower progress than you expected or the teachers are providing different support, help or activities in class, don't assume that your child has special educational needs.

If your child has had help through **differentiation** but has still not made good enough progress, the school should do more.

The law says that a child has **special educational needs** if they have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age. These children may need **extra or different help** from that given to other children of the same age.

Children do not have learning difficulties just because their first language is not English, although of course some of these children may have learning difficulties as well.

Children may need extra help because of a range of special educational needs, such as:

- thinking and understanding
- physical or sensory (sight, hearing etc.) difficulties
- emotional or behavioural difficulties
- speech and language difficulties
- difficulties in how they relate to other people

Many children will have special educational needs of some kind during their education. Schools and other organisations can help most children to overcome these difficulties, but a few children will need extra help for some or all of their time in school.

Special Educational Needs could mean that a child has difficulty with any of the following:

- all of the work in school
- reading, writing, number work
- understanding information
- expressing themselves
- understanding what others are saying
- making friends or relating to adults
- behaving properly in school
- organising themselves
- a sensory impairment (sight, hearing etc.)
- a physical need which may affect them in school

Help for children with special educational needs will usually be in the child's ordinary, mainstream early education setting or school, sometimes with the help of outside specialists.

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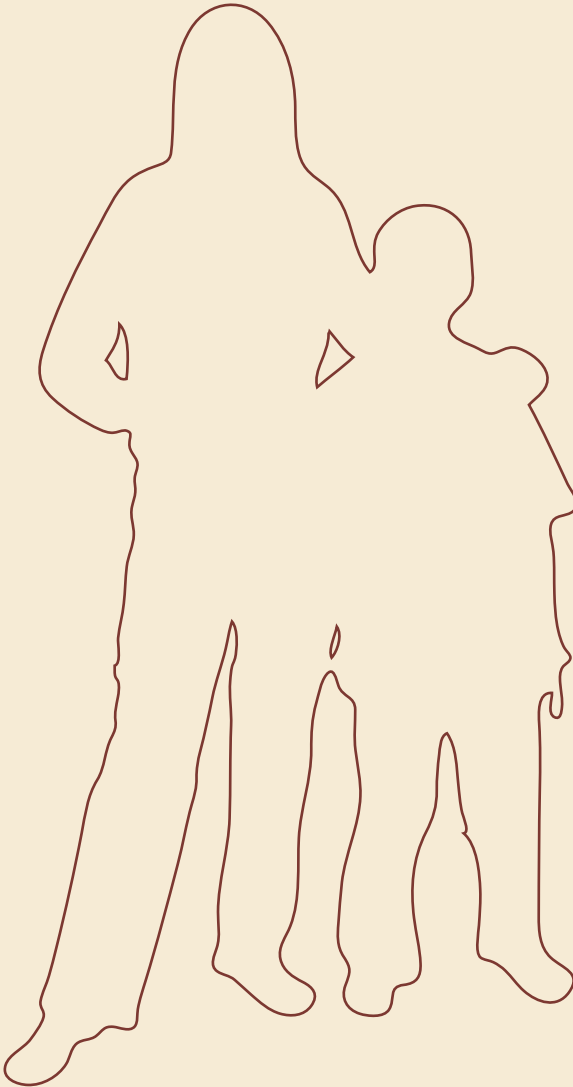
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