



HOUNSLOW SENDIASS

Information Advice and Support Service

What To Do If You Are Concerned About Your Child's Progress Factsheet

This factsheet explains the steps you can take if you are concerned that your child is not making progress or developing at school as you would normally expect.

Early Years 0-5

If your child is below the age of 5, you can seek support and advice from the following:

Health Visitor

Health visitors are Specialist Public Health Nurses or midwives. Their role is to ensure that children grow up happy, safe and healthy.

When your child is born, they will be allocated a health visitor. You can contact them at any time with concerns about your child.

Health visitors work closely with Community Nursery Nurses, and both can refer your child to other specialist health services. These may include the Child Development Team, paediatricians (a doctor specialising in children), and speech therapists.

Once your child starts school, you lose access to your health visitor.

Children's Centre

Parents can take children under 5 years old to children's centres to enjoy facilities and receive support. Support at these centres focus on parenting.

However, some centres will offer extra services such as speech and language therapy. They will also be able to signpost parents to other relevant services concerning your child's development.

GP

Book an appointment with your GP if you are concerned about your child's development. They may refer you to specialist services such as occupational therapists, physiotherapists or speech and language therapists if they believe your child could benefit from treatment.

Nursery

Nurseries have a variety of different staff members who may be able to help.

Early Years Practitioners use a framework called The Early Years Foundation Stage to track how your child is progressing. Speak to them to gain a better understanding of how your child is developing.

The nursery's SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) is responsible for coordinating special educational needs provision. They may have detected signs your child has SEN. If this is identified, your child could be referred to the Pre-School Forum. If they believe your child has SEN, they will work to support your child and ensure a smooth transition between nursery and school.

You could also ask to speak to your child's key worker to discuss their progress.

School

If your child is at school, you can seek support and advice from the following:

Class Teacher

Your class teacher will be able to discuss your concerns with you. They will have first-hand information on the development of your child within the school setting and can share with you what support your child receives in school and any additional support they might need, both at school and at home.

SENCO

The school's SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) is the member of staff responsible for organising special educational needs provision for that school. If you are concerned about your child's progress and think they might have special educational needs, you should request a meeting with the SENCO to discuss how you can access further support.

School Nurse

School nurses are Specialist Public Health Nurses supported children and young people aged 5-19 at that school. They should offer drop-in sessions for older children to seek support and will have a contact number for parents to make an appointment on behalf of their children. They will be able to offer parents advice and support relating to your child's development, as well as signpost to other services which could provide additional help. Ask your school for the contact number of your school nurse if you wish to make an appointment.

Further information

For more information, please visit the Hounslow local offer website:

[Early years – London Borough of Hounslow](#)

Alternatively, the Hounslow SENDIASS team will be able to offer you personalised guidance and support. You can contact them:

- By email: sendiass@hounslow.gov.uk
- By telephone: 0208 5832607