

## Who are we?

We are a service made up of Early Years Teachers and Specialist Practitioners who work closely to support children under 5 who have additional needs that may affect their development and educational progress. The support includes advice and assessment of needs.

## Early Years SEND\* Team:

We work with individual children who have complex needs, supporting the children and their families through the assessment process. This may involve play sessions in the home. Also, we provide support and advice to a child's educational setting. The Team also work with Early Years settings to promote inclusion, child development and learning. Our role includes advice, assessment and support for individual children to enjoy and achieve within the Early Years setting and to successfully transition into school.

\*Special Educational Needs and Disability

## Why has my child been referred?

Your child has been referred to us because you, or an involved professional, have noticed that he / she is experiencing some difficulties in one or more areas of their development and may benefit from an assessment to identify the need for possible educational support.



## What happens next?

Your child's referral is discussed at an Early Years Allocation Meeting. If we feel that we are not the right service to provide support to you and your child we will tell you this by letter.

If your child's referral is accepted, a teacher from the Team will contact you to arrange a visit. This may be at home and / or at your child's Early Years setting. We will carry out an Initial Assessment of your child's needs during this time and share our information with you.

Once an Initial Assessment is completed, it is discussed with other members of the team and the best way to help you and your child will be identified. We will then contact you to plan the next step.

All team members will work in partnership with your child, you and with other involved professionals.

## What support can I expect?

Here are some examples of the type of support you might receive after the Initial Assessment:

- A visit could be arranged to see your child at home or at their Early Years setting to give advice on specific strategies and approaches.
- Ongoing advice could be provided to support you and your child at home.
- Ongoing advice, support and training could be provided to the Early Years setting to enable your child to access educational opportunities.
- Support in the planning and transition of your child into school can be provided.

Advice can also be given about voluntary agencies that can help you; and the type of support that is available in your child's Early Years education and childcare setting.

## Contact Details

**Early Years SEND\* Team**  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Children's Services  
Watling House  
High Street North  
Dunstable  
Central Bedfordshire  
LU6 1LF  
**Telephone:** 0300 300 4364

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# Early Years SEND Team: Supporting Children in the Early Years

