

Identifying if a child has Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)

It is vital that all staff in your nursery are able to identify and support children with SEND. If you start to suspect a child in your care may have SEND, you first have to gather all the evidence.

This evidence can come from:

- Your own observations of the child in the setting
- The information you receive from parents when the child starts and as part of a regular exchange of information
- The health and development review carried out by the health visitor when the child is aged 2
- The child's own views, either verbal or non-verbal, shown through visual cues, attitudes and behaviour
- Views of your Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and any other practitioner or professional who has observed the child.



When you have brought together all the information, the key questions to help you decide whether a child may have SEND include:

- Does the child have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than their peers?
- Does the child have a disability that prevents or hinders them from making use of the resources and facilities in your setting?
- Does the learning difficulty or disability call for special educational provision, i.e. do you have to provide things that are additional to, or different from, the provision normally made available?

It is important to remember though, that there could be other explanations for the things you have observed. For example:

- A delay in learning and development may or may not indicate that a child has SEND because children develop at different rates at different times. Your observations and knowledge of the child will help you make this decision
- Difficult or withdrawn behaviour does not necessarily mean that a child has SEND
- A child with a disability does not necessarily have SEND.

For more information on the range of SEND support NDNA can offer, contact us on 01484 407070 or email training@ndna.org.uk.

Identifying if a child has SEND – V0.2 22nd December 2022