

## How educational psychologists support pre-school children with SEND

For young children under the age of 5 years old and who are not yet in school, involvement by an educational psychologist is through the multiagency Early Years Support Team. There is a Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist who is part of this Team and who can offer advice.

If a parents/carer, early year's settings practitioner, children's centre worker, health visitor or other health professionals are concerned that a baby or young child under the age of 5 may have a special educational need and/or disability and may need further support, they can complete a request to Early Years Support. The concern might be about the young child's development or learning, or about their physical or medical needs. Information about Early Years Support and the request form can be found on the Early Years Support webpage of the Local Offer here:  
<http://eastridinglocaloffer.org.uk/care-and-support/early-years-and-childcare/early-years-support/>

At the Early Years Support Team meeting, everyone in the Team will look at this information in the request form and discuss what further assessment and support might be needed. This might be advising that a new team or service becomes involved, for example, a Portage worker, Area SENCo or a health practitioner. The Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist will be part of these initial discussions and will continue to provide advice through reviews and updates at Early Years Support Team meetings or through discussions with practitioners who are involved in planning and providing support to the young child.

For many young children, the advice provided by the Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist (described above) is all that is needed to help and there is no need for any direct EP involvement.

For a small number of young children, the Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist may feel that further more detailed educational psychology advice and support might be helpful and would suggest that one of the practitioners already involved with the young child (eg an Early Years settings SENCO, Area SENCO or Portage worker) discusses this with the parent/carer. If they are in agreement, then the practitioner would complete the Request for Involvement Form (a copy of this is on the Educational Psychology Service Local Offer webpage).

Educational psychologists also become involved with young children undergoing an education, health and care needs assessment by providing psychological advice for the local authority.