



SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) NEWSLETTER



Summer 2016

Check out our new website www.iowsendiass.co.uk



The website contains lots of information for parents, young people and professionals. We have several interesting sections and the site is updated regularly to provide access to relevant up to date information. Have a look and let us know what you think.



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Invitation to webinar— Listening to parents in the south east region

Ofsted is committed to improving engagement with parents on how we work and what we find. As part of this work Stephen Long and Hilary Macdonald, senior inspectors in Ofsted's south east region, would like to invite parents of school age children in the south east region to attend a webinar on:

Wednesday 4 May 2016 at 7:30pm to 8:30pm

More details and how to register are available on our website.

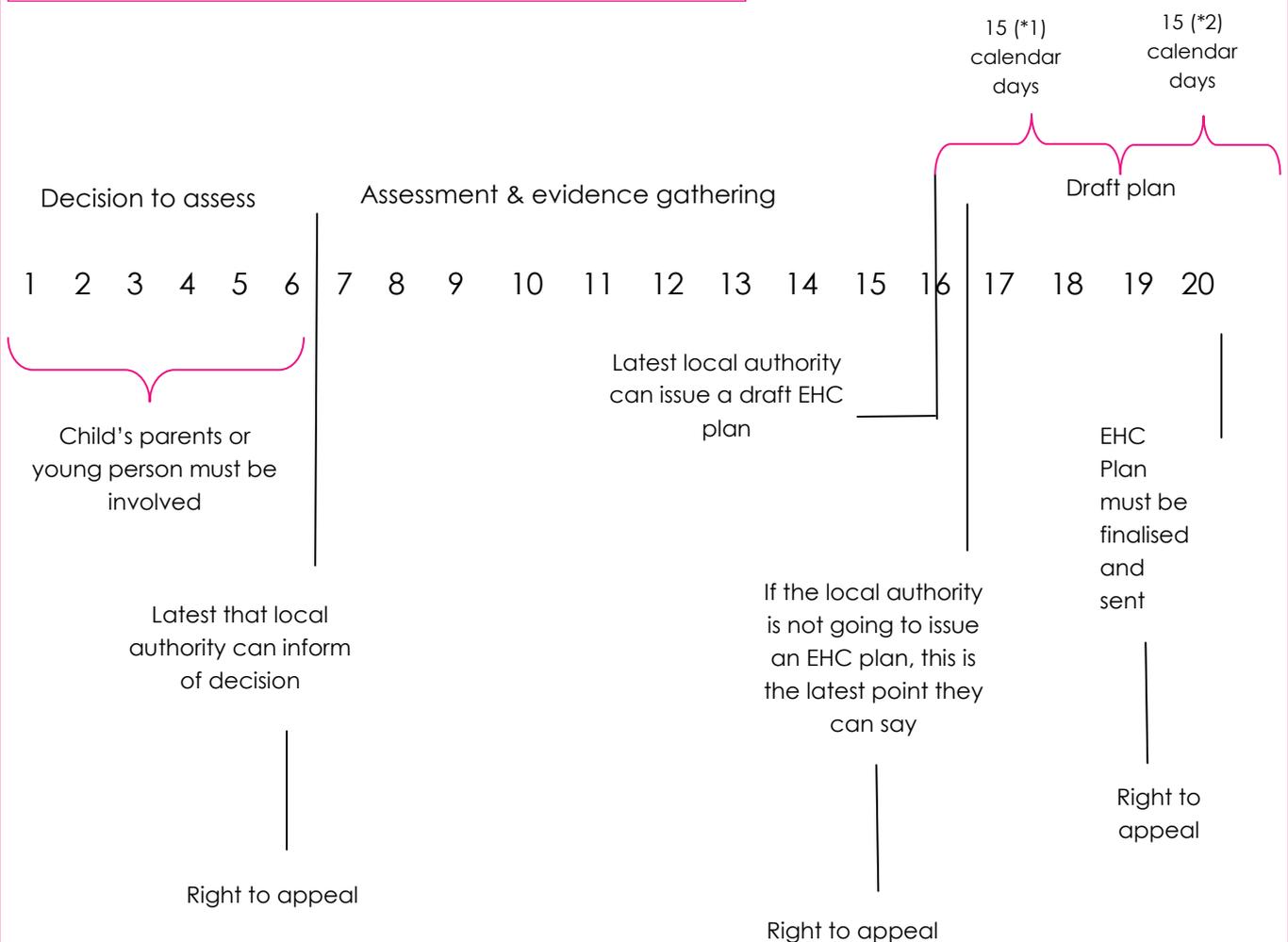
Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan

What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?

An EHC needs assessment is a detailed look at the special educational needs (SEN) of a child or young person and the support he or she may need in order to learn. It is a legal assessment carried out by the local authority and not the same as the assessments carried out by your child's teachers or other professionals. An EHC needs assessment can also be called a statutory assessment.

The whole process can take up to 20 weeks from the time you ask for an EHCP to the point when the final plan is issued. We've broken the journey up into stages,

For further information please contact SEND IASS on 01983 825548 or go to our website www.iowsendiass.co.uk



*1—First 15 days—Parent or young person can, comment on the plan/request a particular school or college to be named in the final plan.

*2—Second 15 days—Consultation with school or college to be named in the final plan.



Holidays with a child who has autism: preparation and practicalities.

Planning a holiday is exciting and sometimes stressful. If you have a child with autism, a trip away may involve extra organising and preparation. The *National Autistic Society* has a guide which you may find helpful to prepare for your trip. Visit— www.autism.org.uk You will also find a directory of holiday venues in the UK and abroad which have stated that they are suitable for people with autism. The list also includes the contact details of a small number of organisations who are able to provide funding for holidays.



How to help children with or without autism learn social skills.

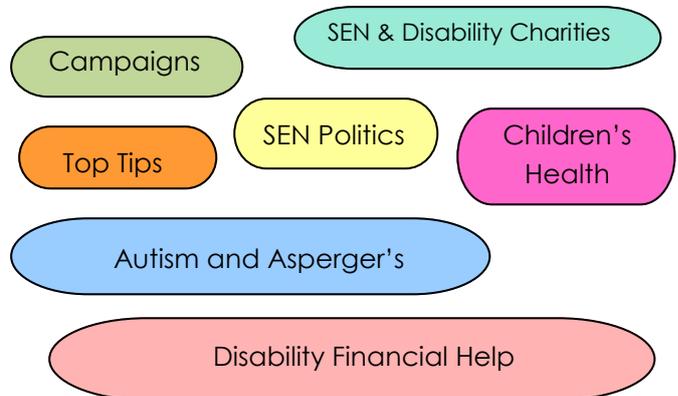
Some children find social skills really hard. It can be much trickier to teach a child where to stand than how to say a word, the rules of the social world are not often straight forward. Go to the Special Needs Jungle website www.specialneedsjungle.com to find out more on this and many more subjects.



Special Needs Jungle is a really useful website with parent-led information, resources and informed opinion about Children and Young People with SEN, Disabilities, Health Conditions and Rare Diseases.

Many families don't get the help they need because they don't know where to look or how to find their way through the increasingly complicated system. *Special Needs Jungle* aim to highlight resources and inspire and empower families to do this successfully by providing resources, tips, facts and examples.

Just some of the subjects that the Special Needs Jungle write about:



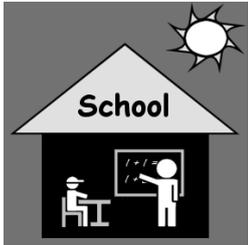
Other useful websites



www.do2learn.com provide activities to promote independence in children and adults with special learning needs. They provide thousands of free pages with social skills and behavioural regulation activities and guidance, learning songs and games, communication cards, academic material and transition guides for employment and life skills.

www.childrentoday.org.uk is a national charity which provides grants for specialised equipment and aids for children and young people with disabilities and illness.

www.familylives.org.uk provides information on all aspects of family life and includes information regarding special educational needs and advice on parenting disabled children. Family Lives also has a confidential helpline and provides email support.



SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS

Children with SEN and/or disabilities are much more likely to be excluded from school than their class mates.

What are the different types of exclusion? There are only two types of exclusion which are lawful; permanent and fixed period. Only the head teacher of a school (or the teacher in charge of a pupil referral unit or the principal of an academy) can exclude a pupil.

A fixed term exclusion is for a specific period of time. A pupil may be excluded for one or more fixed periods (up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year). A fixed period exclusion does not have to be for a continuous period. In exceptional cases, usually where further evidence has come to light, a fixed period exclusion may be extended or converted to a permanent exclusion.

A permanent exclusion involves the child being removed from the school roll. However, the head teacher must not remove a pupil's name from the school's admissions register until the outcome of the Independent Review Panel (if this route is followed by the parents/carers).

This means that legally a child is either in school full-time or they are excluded from school. Legally they can be excluded for a fixed term (for a specific number of school days) or permanently excluded (unable to return to that school unless the parent or young person can overturn the exclusion on appeal).

An Exclusion Myth : "The school can send my child home to 'cool off' or ask me to collect my child from school to prevent exclusion—as long as I agree"

Fact : Unofficial or informal exclusions are illegal—even if the parent agrees.

Law : "Exclusions from Maintained Schools Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England" is the statutory guidance that confirms this (in paragraph 13).

Information from IPSEA—Independent Parental Special Education Advice & Coram Children's Legal Centre

Disappointed with the school place offered to your child?



It can be very upsetting for you and your child if you have not got a place at the school that you wanted. If your preferences cannot be met the local authority will allocate your child a place at an alternative school. This may be at a school that you did not apply for. If you are refused a place at any school you applied for, you have the right to make an appeal. The letter you received will give you information about what you can do next.

If you think there are good reasons why your child should go to a particular school then you can present your case to an independent appeal panel. You will be given 20 school days to lodge an appeal so you have time to consider what you could include in your case. The Advisory Centre for Education www.ace-ed.org.uk have comprehensive advice about the appeals process which can help you to put your case together.

If you are successful your child will be given a place at the school even though it is already full.

For more information contact Isle of Wight Schools Admissions : (01983) 823455



SHORT BREAKS FUN AND INFORMATION DAY 2016

Medina Leisure Centre, Newport

Friday 22nd July

10:00am—4:00pm

The Short Breaks fun day is an annual event which takes place on the first Friday of the summer holidays. The fun day is a free event which has all the Short Breaks providers and organisations that support inclusion showcasing what they do best!

The day is an outdoor event and is free to all children/young people and their families, there is no need to book. There will be lots of free activities/shows happening throughout the day which will include; animals, magicians, face painting, arts and crafts, entertainers and lots more. Refreshments are provided, food options available to buy.

There are also disabled facilities provided—signed performance, toilets and wheelchair access.

The *Short Breaks Activity guide* can be found on www.iwight.com

The SEND IASS Service offers impartial information, support and advice to parents and carers of children who have special educational needs and disabilities on the Isle of Wight. This newsletter is produced termly by SEND IASS and distributed to parents, schools, voluntary groups and professionals—please share with parents and colleagues.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Isle of Wight SEND IASS Service.

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