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## What is a SENCO?

SENCO stands for Special Educational Needs Coordinator, they have a legal duty to follow the SEND code of practice. This is important in early years settings in supporting early identification and intervention for children with special educational needs and are a contact for the parents if they have any concerns about their child's development.



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## What is the role and responsibilities of a SENCO?

A SENCO is a Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator. This person will be a level 3 practitioner.

All childcare settings will have a SENCO to ensure that any children with special educational needs and disabilities reach the best possible educational outcomes.

The SENCO will work closely with the manager and all the practitioners within the setting. They have the responsibility for the day to day working of the settings implementing the SEN policy and coordinating provision throughout the setting; and for supporting colleagues in all parts of their work with SEN.

The SENCO will ensure that the parents will be closely involved throughout the Child's time in setting to ensure the child reaches the best possible educational outcomes.

The SENCO will also liaise with professionals or agencies outside of the setting.

The SENCO ensures the child is at the centre of the SEN support process.

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## What Does SEN Mean?

In law the term special educational needs is described in the Childrens and Families Act 2014 as:

A child or young person has special educational needs if he/she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he/she: has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age or  
Has a disability which prevents or hinders him/her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

A child under compulsory school age has a learning difficulty or disability if he/she is likely to be within the above subsection when of compulsory school age (or would be likely, if no special educational provision were made)

A child or young person does not have a learning difficulty or disability solely because the language (or form of language) in which her /she is or will be taught is different from a language (or form of language) which has been spoken at home.

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## What does disability mean?

Many children and young people who have SEN may also have a disability. A disability is described in law (the equality Act 2010) as: "A physical or mental impairment which has a long term (a year or more) and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities"

This includes sensory impairments such as those that affect sight and hearing and long term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes or epilepsy.  
Many disabilities are hidden.



Caption

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## What is the SEND Code of Practice?

The SEND Code of Practice provides statutory guidance for organisations (this includes schools and settings) working with and supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. It covers the 0-25 age range.

The SEND code of practice says: all children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress so that they:

Achieve their best

Become confident individuals living fulfilling lives and make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or high education or training.

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## Useful Links

<https://localoffer.gov.uk/home>

<https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/overview>

[www.nidirect.gov.uk/what-are-special-educational-needs](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/what-are-special-educational-needs)

If you have any further questions about your child's additional needs, or any of the information contained in this leaflet, then please contact our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) below:

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