
Education Health and Care needs assessment for children in early years settings or at school

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Summary

This information is about Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment, which is sometimes called statutory assessment. It covers:

- x children in early years settings
- x children of school age.

The local authority has up to six weeks to decide whether to make a needs assessment. During this time it may ask you, the school and other professionals for information.

It will look at all the information and must then tell you whether it has decided:

to start the EHC needs assessment immediately

or

that an EHC needs assessment is not necessary.

What happens if the local authority decides that an EHC needs assessment is not necessary?

The local authority must tell you why it thinks that an EHC needs assessment is not needed. It must also tell you about:

- x your right of appeal
- x independent disagreement resolution and mediation
- x how to get further information, advice or support.

If you disagree with the decision, Herefordshire and Worcestershire SEND Information, Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS) can explain your options to you.

What happens if the EHC needs assessment goes ahead?

The SEND Code of Practice says:

Local authorities must consult the child and the child's parent or the young person throughout the process of assessment and production of an EHC plan. They should also involve the child as far as possible in this process. The needs of the individual child and young person should sit at the heart of the assessment and planning process.

(Section 9 Paragraph 21)

The local authority will write to you to tell you what will happen and ask for your views. Your views and your child's views are really important. Herefordshire and Worcestershire SEND Information, Advice & Support Services (SENDIASS) can give you information, advice and support to help you with this.

The local authority will ask a number of other people for information about your child. This is called 'advice' and it should include information about:

- x your child's education, health and care needs
- x the desired outcomes for your child

Worcestershire:
Tel: 01905 768153
Email: sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk

Herefordshire:
Tel: 01432 260955
Email: sendias@herefordshire.gov.uk

www.hwsendiass.co.uk

Worcestershire:
Tel: 01905 768153
Email: sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk

Herefordshire:
Tel: 01432 260955
Email: sendias@herefordshire.gov.uk

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