

Parental Checklist

Childcare providers are private businesses; some may be profit making, others voluntary, others charitable. The local authority does not set fees; these are private arrangements with the individual childcare provider.

When visiting an early years provider you may want to have an idea of what to consider when choosing your provider:

- What is the atmosphere like here?
Is it noisy or quiet?
- Are the children busy and engaged?
Is it a happy place?
- How are adults interacting with the children? What experience do the staff have in supporting children with SEND?
- What SEN assessment does the provision offer eg SEN Support and Assess, Plan, Do, Review?
- Is there a consistent approach to communication eg pictures, symbols, Signalong, PEIC-D?
- Does the provider have experience of liaising with other professionals e.g. speech and language, physiotherapist?



The SEND Local Offer provides information on local services and activities for children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND): poolelocaloffer.com



Parents and carers of children and young people with SEND can join the 'Add-On Register' which provides:

- a free MAX card offering concessions to over 1,500 venues nationwide
- a termly emailed newsletter sharing parents' experiences, activities and latest news
- access to Parent Carers Together, a forum run by parents for parents



"Time to Talk" Q&A events offer parents and carers the opportunity to share their experiences of SEND services and give feedback to the Local Authority SEND Leadership Team.

Further Assistance

Family Information Service:

T. 01202 261970
E. familyinformation@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Children's Information Service:

T. 01202 458222
E. cis@bcpcouncil.gov.uk



Choosing an Early Years Provider

A leaflet for parents of children with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND)



Finding the right Early Years Provider

All children have the right to an education; some children will need additional support to enable them to learn. There are many local providers who can support you and your family during the early years:

- Childminders
- Pre-schools
- Nurseries (including those located in schools)

The Family Information Directory (FID) provides information on childcare provision, early education funding and support available for SEND:

www.bcpfamilyinformationdirectory.com. If you require support in making your choice the Family Information Service (FIS) offer a brokerage service tel: 01202 261970 or the CIS 01202 458222.

The Next Step

Once you have chosen a provision your Portage practitioner will set up a transition meeting. This is an opportunity to share relevant information about your child and their individual needs to ensure their transition is as smooth as possible. It will include successful strategies used at home such as visual timetables, Signalong, objects of reference and/or PEIC-D. A plan will be drawn up to outline the steps, together with agreed timescales and roles and responsibilities during this period.

If you are not receiving Portage your early years provider's SENCO should organise this meeting. This will give you the opportunity to share your child's strengths, likes and also any concerns you may have about your child moving into an early years environment. The provider will contact the BCP Council Early Years Area SENCO to discuss any additional resources that may be required.

What to Expect at an Early Years Setting

All early years providers have a duty, to support children and their families with SEND. This includes:

- recognising the importance of your wishes, views and feelings for your child;
- encouraging your participation in decision-making in relation to your child;
- ensuring you receive the right information and support to you as needed;
- focusing on the best possible outcomes for your child;

All providers have an allocated Early Years Area SENCO (EYAS), who can provide advice and practical support to enable SENCOs and staff teams to follow the SEND Code of Practice and the processes for SEND in Poole.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS is the first stage of education for children attending an early years provision.

It sets standards for learning, development and care and states that providers must have arrangements in place to support children with SEND.



Support for your Child

Most providers operate a key person system, where one individual is responsible for the co-ordination, learning and care for your child, monitoring his or her progress.

Early Years Settings are supported by the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) who provides advice and practical strategies to staff. They help to implement any interventions or programmes agreed, as part of SEN support and guidance.



Support for Parents

Providers will work in partnership with you, and any professionals involved, to plan support that reinforces and contributes to your child's progress at home.

Meetings are usually held every 6 weeks, or half term, and your views are important. There are four stages of action:

- Assess** – identifying needs
- Plan** – identifying outcomes
- Do** – implementing strategies/advice
- Review** – looking at the effectiveness of support