

Getting more help at school



The Child Brain Injury Trust is a national charity supporting anyone affected by childhood acquired brain injury. The following information has been developed to help the reader understand more about brain injury and some of the associated issues. Every effort has been taken to ensure the information is accurate and up to date. If you require more immediate support or assistance please contact our Helpline 0303 3032248 or email helpline@cbituk.org where we will be able to respond to your specific enquiry and or offer support.

Getting more help at school

The procedure for getting further support and assistance for your child in school and in the classroom may vary depending on where you are in the UK.

As well as the details below please also note that your local authority may also have access to an Educational Psychology Service. Educational Psychologists advise schools and work with children, young people and families around difficulties with emotional, social, learning or behavioural needs. Some Educational Psychology services are now traded which means that schools decide if they want to buy the service in for their school although Educational Psychologists still have a statutory duty to carry out work that is deemed to be statutory.

In a similar way, your authority may have access to a Behaviour Support Service which will be able to offer guidance on behavioural difficulties.

England

Since 1 September 2014 there have been changes to the way children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are supported. These changes are set out by a new law called the Children and Families Act 2014 and they aim to give more importance to the views and feelings of children and young people and their families.

Every local authority in England has a SEND information advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) that has a duty to provide information, advice and support to disabled children and young people, and those with special educational needs, and their parents.

The aim of SENDIASS is to support parents or carers and children and young people through the successes and difficulties of their child's education. They offer a range of flexible services, including a helpline, information and advice about SEN, support to manage mediation and, where necessary an 'independent supporter' for parents. This is a trained individual that the parents can rely on to provide independent advice and support to help them through the system.

Getting more information:

- Find your local SENDIASS here: www.iassnetwork.org.uk/find-your-iass
- Or call: 0207 843 6051



Produced by: The Child Brain Injury Trust | Tel: 01869 341075 | info@cbituk.org | www.childbraininjurytrust.org.uk

This information was written in accordance with our Information Production Process based on the principles of the Information Standard.

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Wales

Children with additional learning needs in Wales may need a statutory assessment to establish what their difficulties are. This may lead to a statement of special educational needs which will set out the help the child must receive. Either you or your child's school can make a request for a statutory assessment and a template letter for making such a request can be found on the 'SNAP Cymru' website. SNAP Cymru provides information, advice and support for parents, children and young people who have, or may have, special educational needs or disabilities. You can contact SNAP Cymru via their helpline: 0845 120 3730, or website: www.snapcymru.org

Scotland

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 came into force in 2005 and was amended in 2009. The law sets out how pupils should be helped to get the right support to become successful learners and explains how parents can make sure this happens. If you feel that your child needs additional support at school the first step is to speak to their school about this. The school may work with you to create an individualised educational programme (IEP). An IEP is a detailed plan for your child's learning. It is likely to contain specific, short-term learning targets for your child and will set out how those targets will be reached. Your child may require a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP). A CSP is a detailed plan of how your child's support will be provided. It is a legal document and aims to ensure that all the professionals who are helping your child work together and that you and your child are involved in the process.

A great source of information on this subject is Enquire: the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning. They can offer practical advice and information about education and advise you on possible ways forward. Their dedicated helpline number is: 0345 123 2303 and their website can be found at: www.enquire.org.uk

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland's Education and Library Boards (ELBs) were dissolved on 31st March 2015. In their place, the Education Authority was established on 01 April 2015 and is now responsible for all of the operational functions previously carried out by the five ELBs.

This transition will ensure that education policies are delivered in the same way, regardless of where your child lives or the school that they attend, hence all children within Northern Ireland will be treated equally across the region.

For more information or advice you can contact the Education Authority on (028) 906 94964 or the following regional offices which are remaining in operation during the transition period:

North Eastern: 028 2565 3333

Western: 028 8241 1411



Belfast:028 9056 4000

Southern:028 3751 2200

South Eastern:028 9056 6200

You can also contact the Special Educational Needs Advice Centre (SENAC) which is a free independent advice and advocacy service for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs within Northern Ireland.

028 907 95779 (Confidential Phone Advice Line)

How the Child Brain Injury Trust can help

Your Regional Child and Family Support Coordinator will be able to support you with signposting to professionals who can help with school issues, and can also put you in touch with our Legal Support Service provider, who will be able to offer specialist legal advice on Education issues. For contact details of your Regional Coordinator please contact the **Helpline** number shown at the start of this Factsheet.

Independent organisations offering information and advice on Special Educational Needs

•ACE: Advisory Centre for Education

Telephone : 0808 800 5793 Mon–Thu 10 – 1pm

Exclusion advice line: 0808 800 0327

Address:

1c Aberdeen Studios

22 Highbury Grove

London N5 2DQ

Website: www.ace-ed.org.uk

Information for parents about all aspects of state education in England and Wales.

• Contact a Family – SEN National Advice Service

Telephone 0808 808 3555 (option 1) Mon-Fri 9.30 – 5.00

Address:

209-211 City Road

London EC1V 1JN

Website: www.cafamily.org.uk/advice-and-support/sen-national-advice-service/

e-mail: helpline@cafamily.org.uk

A national charity that exists to support the families of disabled children. The SEN helpline assists families to resolve education issues for children with additional needs and will be able to provide advice and information on any aspect of your child's education.



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•**CORAM Children’s Legal Centre**

Address:

Coram Children's Legal Centre

University of Essex

Wivenhoe Park

Colchester Essex CO4 3SQ

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

E-mail: clc@essex.ac.uk

A national charity providing a free and confidential legal service on English law and policy affecting children and families to children, young people, their families, carers and professionals

•**IPSEA: Independent Parental Special Education Advice**

General Advice Line: 0800 018 4016 (refer to website for opening hours)

Tribunal Help Line: 0845 6029579

Address:

Hunters Court , Debden Road

Saffron Walden CB11 4AA

Website: www.ipsea.org.uk

E-mail: ipsea.info@intamail.com

•**Network 81**

Tel: 0845 077 4055 Weekdays

Address:

10 Boleyn Way

West Clacton

Essex CO15 2NJ

Website: <http://www.network81.org/>

E-mail: Network81@hotmail.co.uk

Network 81 is a national network of parents working towards properly resourced inclusive education for children with special needs. They offer advice, publications, and training for would be ‘befrienders’.



•Parents for Inclusion

Tel: 0800 652 3145 Mon and Wed, 10 – 12am, 1 – 3pm

Address:

336 Brixton Road

London SW9 7AA

Website: www.parentsforinclusion.org

E-mail: info@parentsforinclusion.org

Parents helping parents so their disabled children can learn, make friends and have a voice in ordinary schools and throughout life. Run by parents for parents.

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