

ISL SEND Specialist Advice and Support (SEND SAS) Offer for Children in the Early Years (0-7)

February 2022

SEND Specialist Advice and Support (SEND SAS) sits within Integrated Services for Learning (ISL), which is a part of Children's Services within Hertfordshire County Council.

The SEND SAS Early Years team support children from birth up to seven years old with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Practitioners from the service give advice and guidance to families in the home and to professionals in Early Years Settings (the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector, maintained nurseries and schools) developing their skills and confidence to use techniques and interventions to understand and meet the educational needs of the child.

The SEND SAS Early Years Team

The service is divided into four local teams across Hertfordshire:

- ❖ North Herts and Stevenage
- ❖ East Herts, Broxbourne, Welwyn and Hatfield
- ❖ St. Albans and Dacorum
- ❖ Watford, Three Rivers and Hertsmere



Each local team consists of the following practitioners and is managed by a Lead Teacher.

Specialist Advisory Teachers (SATs)

Our Specialist Advisory Teachers (SATs) are qualified teachers with specialist SEND experience and qualifications. Specialist Advisory Teachers work with individual children and their families and/or education providers, assessing need and giving practical advice and guidance and offering training. Some of our SATs work in our specialist pre-school setting for children and their families; the Early Years Specialist Development Centre.

Early Years Inclusion Specialists (EYIS)

Early Years Inclusion Specialists (EYIS) are highly experienced, specialised learning support practitioners. They work alongside our teachers to model interventions and strategies suggested in their advice and guidance. EYIS can offer support in the home, Early Years settings and schools. They also deliver training and offer group sessions for children and their families. Some EYIS support teaching and learning in the Early Years Specialist Development Centres.

Inclusion Development Officers (IDO)

Inclusion Development Officers (IDO) have extensive and varied experience in Early Years education and SEND. They work with practitioners in PVI and maintained nursery settings, developing inclusive practice by training staff and enhancing systems and processes within the nursery.

SEND SAS Early Years Offer and the Graduated Response

All children in the Early Years require high quality teaching and learning experiences for them to achieve; some children will require additional targeted support in addition to this. In line with the Early Years Statutory Framework, SEND Code of Practice (2015) and the Herts Quality SEND Offer, there is an expectation that Early Years providers will identify and plan for additional needs within their setting. When SEN Support has been put in place and there has been limited progress towards the child's outcomes, a Specialist Advisory Teacher may be requested to provide additional support and guidance to help the child access learning and to improve progress.

If a child does not attend an Early Years setting, support from the Early Years team will be decided based on evidence supplied through the service request and, if necessary, discussions with parent/carer.

Determining Need and Level of Support

The Early Years team base their support on a needs led assessment. A child does not require a medical diagnosis or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in order to access the service. Our practitioners focus on the strengths and needs of individual children and support their progress through inclusive practice and reasonable adjustments within their current setting or at home.

The child's strengths and needs are determined through assessment conducted by Specialist Advisory Teachers, practitioners in settings and healthcare professionals.

This assessment informs the level of support provided by the Early Years SEND team. Levels of support are divided into 5 tiers, which are reflective of a child's level of need. Tier 1 being the lowest level of need and Tier 5 the highest.

Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for systems and processes in Early Years settings by IDOs (PVI settings and Maintained Nurseries) Training for Early Years providers to support inclusive practice Guidance materials and online tools (e.g., HfL SEND Toolkit, Hertfordshire Local Offer) SEND review for Early Years providers using the Inclusion Practice Statements, with their link IDO (PVI settings and Maintained Nurseries)
Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years SEND Advice Line for 'on the spot' guidance 01442 453920 - Wednesday 9am -12pm and Thursday 1pm - 4pm Telephone/virtual consultation with a SAT for an individual child (parent or setting) Consultation for Early Years settings with a SAT, to discuss multiple children (with parental consent/participation) or support for whole cohort inclusive practice Advice to support high quality inclusive teaching and learning from an IDO (PVI settings and Maintained Nurseries) <p>A condensed referral is required for consultation calls or visits</p>
Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting or home visit by a SAT to assess need, advise and model strategies <p>A full referral will be required</p>
Tier 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting and/or home visits by a SAT to assess need, advise and model initial strategies Settings or families may also be offered additional guidance and modelling for adults from an EYIS <p>A full referral will be required</p>
Tier 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting and/or home visits by a SAT to assess need, advise and model initial strategies. Additional guidance and modelling for adults from an EYIS Invitation to the Early Years Specialist Development Centre <p>A full referral will be required</p>

For full information on the Tiers of Support please request the full document; 'SEND SAS Offer for Children in the Early Years'

Referrals

Condensed referrals

- A completed service request <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/media-library/documents/hertfordshire-service-request-form-for-children-and-young-people.pdf>
- State the reason for request as 'telephone/virtual consultation' or 'setting consultation visit'
- Evidence of 'assess, plan, do, review' if the child is in an Early Years setting – *if there is not yet evidence of this, please contact local area Lead Teacher for an initial assessment of need*

Full Referral

- A completed service request <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/media-library/documents/hertfordshire-service-request-form-for-children-and-young-people.pdf>
- A completed ISL Baseline Assessment <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/media-library/documents/isl-baseline-assessment-form.pdf>
- Evidence of two cycles of 'assess, plan, do, review' if the child is in an Early Years setting - *if there is not yet evidence of this, please contact local area Lead Teacher for an initial assessment of need*
- Relevant supporting medical reports (speech and language therapy, paediatrician, physiotherapy, occupational therapy etc.)
- Reports from any other supporting agencies (e.g., Family Centre support, Special School Outreach etc.)

All referrals must have parental consent

This is a summary of the ISL SEND SAS Offer for Children in the Early Years. If you require further information, please request a full version from the Lead Teacher working in your local area.

Contacts

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Service Manager for Early Years SEND

For enquiries about the Early Years Specialist Development Centre

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Lead Teachers

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Watford, Three Rivers and Hertsmere; Debbi Watson – Debbi.Watson@hertfordshire.gov.uk

For more information on the support available for SEND in Hertfordshire, visit Hertfordshire's Local Offer website:
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/Local-Offer/The-Hertfordshire-Local-Offer.aspx>

"Empowering children and young people with SEND to learn, thrive and achieve through the provision of high-quality specialist advice and support."