

SEND Newsletter

Summer 2020

The Summer SEND newsletter focuses on helping settings support families with children with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes links to up to date information on Covid-19 and how it may be affecting families. There are also websites for you to share with parents to support home learning for children with SEND. In addition, we have signposted you to useful websites for continuing professional development online training which focuses on different aspects of SEND.

Inclusion Briefings – Supporting SEND in the Early Years

It is hoped that we will be able to resume the inclusion briefings in the autumn, although we are currently unsure how they will be delivered. Look out for further details on the Cumbria County Council website www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/childrenandfamilies/cfis/earlyyearsandchildcare/earlyyearsandchildcare.asp

Referrals to other professionals and for EHCPs

Settings can continue to make referrals to professionals in health and education (including Area SENCOs), using the usual referral forms. Please note though that there may be a delay with processing the referral and allocating appointments. SEND are still accepting requests for Education, Health and Care needs assessments and these should be submitted as usual, with supporting evidence, to your local SEND team.

L3 Early Years Senco Award (Cache)

Thank you to those of you who have completed and submitted an expression of interest form in the early years level 3 SENCO award. We have received an overwhelming response and will be informing the successful applicants at the beginning of July.

PACEY

PACEY have resources to help practitioners support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in childcare settings.

www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/caring-for-children-with-special-educational-needs/



Family Support during the Covid-19 pandemic

Thank you to all those settings who regularly make contact with their families who have children with SEND, offering them advice and support during these difficult times. Below we have included some information and websites which you may find useful to share with these families.

NEW: The SEND helpline for families

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Triage Huddle helpline, which is the multi-agency response to supporting the needs of SEND pupils, is now open to parents as well as educational settings.

The SEND Triage Huddle is an education, health and social care multi-agency response to supporting the needs of SEND pupils at this current time. The purpose of the huddle is to:

- Offer support with risk assessing individual pupils with SEND who are attending a hub.
- Address general SEND queries through signposting to relevant resources/guidance as appropriate.
- Allocate appropriate staff to give virtual support for known individual SEND pupils.

You can contact the SEND referral line on 0333 015 0816 (from 10am to 12pm, Monday to Friday). It is anticipated that all enquiries made to the huddle will receive a contact within 24 hours.

Cumbria SEND IAS Service

Cumbria Information, Advice and Support Service offers impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their parents and carers. This support now includes signposting to health and social care advisory services. If you have a family with a child who has special educational needs and/or disabilities that would benefit from independent advice and support around special needs and services please let them know about this support service.

The Cumbria SEND IAS Service poster has been updated click [here](#) to download the poster. A wealth of information is available from their website: www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/ils/parentpartnership/default.asp

CONTACT

'Contact' is an organisation providing up to date advice for families who have a child with a special educational need or disability. The 'Contact' website currently contains advice on Covid-19, support for home learning and education, information on temporary legal changes to EHCPs at this time and financial help for parents. There is also 'The Helpful Guide for Families with Disabled Children', an all-in-one book with information and help for parents. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this guide available in digital format too. See www.contact.org.uk

The Council for Disabled Children

This website has comprehensive up to date support and guidance for parents of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This includes helplines, frequently asked questions, and links to other services. The new 'CDC questions' inbox provides an opportunity to ask questions about the impact of coronavirus which are shared with the Department for Education and Ministers as appropriate, in order to publish a FAQs newsflash each Friday. To receive the FAQs newsflash please sign up to their mailing list, selecting the 'CDC Digest' option: councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/about/subscribe-newsletter

The 'CDC resources' inbox, CDCresources@ncb.org.uk, is designed to enable parent carers, sector professionals and practitioners to share resources, to support families of children and young people with SEND and practitioners across the disabled children's sector. CDC will add these resources to their COVID-19 Support and Guidance webpage, which you can find here: councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/news-opinion/news/covid-19-support-and-guidance.

Family Fund

The Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people. Visit their website to check eligibility: www.familyfund.org.uk/FAQs/are-we-eligible-to-apply

Children's Therapy Toolkit

This toolkit contains ideas and advice that can be used to help support a child's development. The toolkit includes advice on motor skills, sensory processing, concentration and listening skills, self-help skills and more. There are also links to other useful websites. For more information visit: www.ncic.nhs.uk/services/childrens-therapy-toolkit

Afasic

This website provides advice and support for parents when their child has a speech, language and communication difficulty. For more information see: www.afasic.org.uk

ICAN

This newsletter contains tips and resources for parents in supporting their child's speech, language and communication at home. See: us13.campaign-archive.com/?e=417996feb0&u=7a8f7b55170feb79eed45ea7f&id=b2f76d15fa

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation have produced resources that may provide some useful information and tips to families with children who have behavioural difficulties.

For more information see: www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk/information/covid19information.html

Ambitious about Autism

The booklet, freely downloadable, 'Right from the start – A guide to autism in the early years' is a practical toolkit containing a wealth of straightforward information in one place to guide parents and carers through their child's journey in the early years. From the autism assessment process to the first day of school, this toolkit is packed with practical tips and checklists to support parents during the earliest years of their child's life. It also provides signposts to sources of support or additional information. There are a wide range of additional tools, resources and templates also available to download.

www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/right-from-the-start

National Autistic Society

This website has the latest guidance on coronavirus and useful information for supporting children with autism.

www.autism.org.uk/services/helplines/coronavirus.aspx?utm_source=The%20National%20Autistic%20Society&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11497301_MyWorld.Resource15.04.2020&utm_content=Coronavirus%20hub%20bodytext%20link%20%5Bcoronahub%5D&Keywords=Coronavirus%20hub%20bodytext%20link%20coronahub&dm_i=YA3,6UFDH,T3ICKC,RFYTH,1

Advice for those with serious life limiting conditions

www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/get-support/supporting-you/family-resources/coronavirus-qa/

Hospital passport

A hospital passport helps children and young people with learning disabilities and other lifelong disabilities to give hospital staff important information about them and their health when they go to hospital

www.bristol.gov.uk/web/bristol-local-offer/hospital-passport



Useful websites for support with home learning

Thank you to all those settings who regularly make contact with their families who have children with SEND, offering them advice and support during these difficult times. Below we have included some information and websites which you may find useful to share with these families.

Department for Education

The Department for Education has produced online information and resources for parents of children with SEND to support home learning. This can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education#special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send

Special Educational Needs Resources

Special Educational Needs Resources have produced a Blog – ‘Ways to learn through play at home’. This website includes ‘You Tube’ videos and can be found at:

senresourcesblog.com/2020/03/16/weve-launched-home-learning-videos-on-youtube-to-help-if-schools-close-due-to-coronavirus/

Sensory and messy play activities for children with additional needs

www.empoweringlittleminds.co.uk/resources-1?fbclid=IwAR2AlnVCXXW_ZMOg4I3Xdynlze8fEwmRnUXe2b8i1rivmM17eSb1D9RpCuc

50 sensory learning activities

inclusiveteach.com/2020/03/20/150-sensory-learning-ideas/

Inclusive Teach activities

inclusiveteach.com/2019/05/13/the-a-z-of-sensory-learning-activities/

The Imagination Tree

theimaginationtree.com/

Chat Play Read

small-talk.org.uk/

Hungry Little Minds

hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/



SEND training opportunities for practitioners

CPD online short course: An introduction to speech, language and communication

www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/projects/professional-development/online-short-course/

CE International Free Introductory Course to Trauma-Informed Practices

An online micro-course in partnership with the Center for Learning in Practice at the Carey Center for Global Good

Free online course about Integrated Healthcare for Children with Developmental Disabilities

A course from the International Centre for Evidence in Disability at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Register for the course: www.futurelearn.com/courses/children-with-developmental-disabilities

Focus on SEND training

A free course of 6 modules aiming to help teachers and educational practitioners working across the 0 – 25 years age range to develop high quality practice in order to better meet the needs of their learners with SEND. It is based on the evidence of what constitutes good continuing professional development (CPD) and so takes a practice- led, enquiry-based and collaborative approach nasen.org.uk/training-and-cpd/online-learning.html

SEND Group

FREE access to all its previous SEND webinars – You need to sign up and then they send you a link to access 90 webinars www.sendgroup.co.uk/free-cpd-membership/

Complex Needs

Training materials for teachers of learners with severe, profound and complex learning difficulties www.complexneeds.org.uk/

The Sendcast: The Podcast For Special Educational Needs (Sen)

Developmental Language Disorder, Sensory issues and their impact on school life, Life with Dyslexia and Corona and SEND www.thesendcast.com/

PRISM

Preterm Birth Information for Education Professional www.nottingham.ac.uk/helm/dev/prism/

Autism Education Trust

A very useful source of information on autism in the early years. Once you have signed up, the following materials are freely available on the website: www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/

Early years autism standards

Early years autism competency framework. These have been recently updated to include new developments in autism. There are useful web links for further reading and CPD.

