

# Oxfordshire SEND



Understanding  
support options  
when your child  
has SEND



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Many families worry that their child may need an education, health and care plan (EHCP) to get the support they need. An education, health and care plan (EHCP) can be requested when more help is needed, but most children with SEND will have their needs met with other forms of SEND support.**

There are practical alternatives available in nurseries, schools and colleges – and the Oxfordshire Local Offer can help you explore what’s right for your child.

**You’ll find everything you need at:**

**[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer)**

## **Start by understanding SEND Support**

**For many children, SEND Support provides additional help without needing an EHCP.**

Under SEND Support, settings use an approach that provides targeted help, through a structured cycle of planning the support, actioning the support and then reviewing it.

### **This can include:**

- ▶ Adapted teaching and learning tasks
- ▶ Small group or 1:1 interventions
- ▶ Visual supports or structured routines
- ▶ Assistive technology
- ▶ Sensory or environmental adjustments
- ▶ Extra communication support
- ▶ Regular reviews with families

SEND Support is flexible and should be reviewed to ensure the support continues to meet your child’s needs.

If you feel your child needs additional support, speak to your child’s key worker or teacher. You can learn more about SEND Support on the Local Offer.

## Reasonable adjustments your child is entitled to

Every early years setting, school and college must make reasonable adjustments for children with SEND. These do not require an EHCP.

### Examples include:

- ▶ Quiet spaces or environments with fewer sensory distractions
- ▶ Extra time for tasks or transitions
- ▶ Adjustments to school routines or behaviour expectations
- ▶ Support from pastoral or wellbeing staff
- ▶ Changes to seating, lighting or noise levels

These changes can make a big difference to daily life.

The Local Offer explains what reasonable adjustments can look like in different settings.

## Specialist advice and support without an EHCP

Where appropriate, your child's setting can access support from these teams even without an EHCP:

- ▶ Communication and interaction support services
- ▶ Specialist advisory inclusion teams
- ▶ Speech and language therapy advice
- ▶ Occupational therapy strategies
- ▶ Educational psychology involvement (in some cases)

These specialists advise schools and help them put the right strategies in place.

Most support can start right away — without waiting for assessments.



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