



## What is a Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND)?

### What is SEN?

The SEND Code of Practice 0-25 years (2015 p. 15-16) states:

“A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him/her. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- a. Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or,
- b. Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.”

For a child in the Early Years, the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 years (2015 p. 84) states:

“A delay in learning and development in the early years may or may not indicate that a child has SEN, that is, that they have a learning difficulty or disability that calls for special educational provision. Equally, difficult or withdrawn behaviour does not necessarily mean that a child has SEN. However, where there are concerns, there should be an assessment to determine whether there are any causal factors.”

Children may have needs in more than one area. The broad areas of need described in the SEND Code of Practice are:

- Cognition and Learning (C&L)
- Social and Emotional Mental Health (SEMH)
- Communication and Interaction (C&I)
- Sensory and/or Physical (S&P)

A guidance document explaining ‘SEND Processes for Parents and Carers’ is available from your school or setting SENDCo.

### What is a Disability?

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### Defence Children Services (DCS) SEND Process: What is a Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND)?

The Equality Act 2010 says that a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment and that the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Children with a disability do not necessarily have Special Educational Needs (SEN), but there is a significant overlap between disabled children and those with SEN.

### **What is the difference between SEN and SEND?**

The abbreviation SEND relates to special educational needs and/or disabilities. Guidance, legislation, and regulations sometimes use the abbreviation SEND. The SEND Code of Practice (2015) applies to children aged between 0-25.

A child or young person has Special Educational Needs (SEN) if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him/her.

Children who have SEN do not necessarily have a Disability. Children who have a Disability do not necessarily have SEN.