

Things you can do to help your child

- Get to know your child - it's incredible how little we know about our own children only finding out about them when things begin to go wrong
- Speak to your child - find out about their learning style, do they like sitting down and reading? Or do they like to move about a lot and /or be practical and creative e.g. using their hands? Do they like to learn on-line or in a face to face situation?
- Get to know the school your child is attending or they will be going to - is it the type of school that sees children as individuals with their own ideas or are all children treated as a one single group with those who don't fit into that set up being excluded socially? Is it strict on discipline?
- Ask yourself how your child's school supports them - does the school tell them what they must do and make assumptions about the reasons for your child's behaviour or does the school invite you and your child to discuss concerns and work with you and your child to understand your child's behaviour and likely reasons for it.

Children who have difficulty learning in their school

- If you think or know your child has difficulty with the way the school teaches so that they need additional or different support with learning in the school's educational set up, compared to their friends, you should speak to the special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo) to discuss what support the school can put in place to help. This can be anything from your child receiving regular support from a learning support assistant/ teaching assistant to having regular breaks during lessons to help your child from feeling overwhelmed. A learning support /teaching assistant can help to break down the teaching material to make it more manageable for your child to digest it.
- If your child has an education, health and care plan, (EHCP) check whether the provision detailed in section F of that plan is being delivered. If it isn't, get on to your local authority to find out why and what they will do to ensure the provision is put in place. Don't accept a local authority telling you it's the school's responsibility to put in place the provision in the plan, it is not the school's responsibility but the local authority's.
- If your child does not have an education health and care plan you may need to make a request to your local authority for one, (for more information see our page on special educational needs)
- Consider whether the school can meet your child's academic ability - is your child telling you they are bored of the work given? Or that they are finishing their work too quickly? Is your child progressing but still getting detentions? These could be signs your child's school is not meeting their intellectual abilities. You should speak to the class teacher, head of year or head teacher about what they will do to stretch your child. If the school is unable or unwilling to listen, you may need to consider whether a change of school is necessary or consider alternative options, such as home tuition. contact us.