

Specialist Interventions for pre-school children in Kent

Information for Families and Early Years Settings



What is a Specialist Intervention?

As part of the Kent Local Offer there are Specialist Intervention hubs across the county whose role it is to offer interventions to children who have been identified as having a high level of Special Educational Needs.

Specialist Interventions are supported by a team of Specialist Early Years staff and can take a range of different forms. It is intended that these approaches be complementary to each child's existing mainstream Early Years place.

Specialist Intervention is not appropriate for all children with identified SEND and their offer could include a block of intervention from a SENIF Practitioner, some SEN Inclusion Funding or continued intervention from a Portage Practitioner, if they have one.

Specialist Intervention is a limited resource which is often oversubscribed with a number of children, awaiting capacity becoming available, in order to access an intervention. It may, therefore, not be possible for Specialist Intervention to commence until some months after a request has been made, provided the Specialist Intervention remains appropriate and criteria continues to be met.

The Criteria

- ◆ There is evidence that the child is not meeting their milestones, that there is significant delay in their development in four or more aspects of at least 18+ months.
- ◆ The graduated response has been implemented and outside agency support has been sought and is ongoing.
- ◆ It is likely that the child is known, has been known previously or has been referred to Portage.
- ◆ The child may be known to NHS Children's Care Co-ordination Team.
- ◆ The child requires a high level of adult support for functional activities, child initiated, and adult led play experiences.

What is the process?

- ◆ Referrals can only be made by Kent Specialist Teachers or Portage Practitioners.
- ◆ If at the time the request for Specialist Intervention is made, there is not capacity to offer the child Intervention straight away then their details will be held until capacity becomes available and the request reviewed. At this time the referrer will share current evidence to confirm that the child continues to meet the indicators for Specialist Intervention.
- ◆ If at this time the child does not meet the criteria for Specialist Intervention a different offer may be made. This may be a block of intervention from a SENIF Practitioner, some SENIF funding or continued intervention from a Portage Practitioner, if they have one.
- ◆ The Specialist Teacher or Portage Practitioner who made the referral will contact the family to advise on the outcome of the MAP process.
- ◆ The offer will be up to two terms of intervention and could be offered as an offsite intervention (delivered in the child's mainstream Early Years Setting) or an onsite intervention (delivered in the home district Specialist Intervention hub).

Before the Intervention begins

Once it has been established that capacity is available and the child continues to meet the criteria for Specialist Intervention, the following will take place:

- ◆ The Specialist Intervention Manager will call the Early Years setting, if there is one, to discuss timings and the Specialist Intervention offered.
- ◆ The Specialist Intervention Manager will write to the family confirming the intervention offered within two weeks of the intervention being confirmed and detail specific arrangements when this will commence (number and timing of session(s) being offered, specific details about the hub making the offer).

What can Families expect?

- ◆ The Specialist Intervention offer will be made from the family's home district.
- ◆ Support for families in understanding their children's needs and how best to support them.
- ◆ The Specialist Intervention team will provide advice and support to mainstream pre-school settings working with the children participating in a Specialist Intervention. This will ensure a consistency of approach used by all supporting the children, securing the best outcomes through effective use of strategies and realistic expectations.

What will the intervention look like?

A time limited Specialist Intervention delivered (usually over 2 terms) either in a Specialist Intervention environment or by the Specialist Intervention staff at the child's existing early years setting.

After the Specialist Intervention ends

Towards the end of the two terms of Specialist Intervention a review meeting, that the child's family and Early Years setting will be invited to participate in, will plan for the child's full time return to their mainstream Early Years setting.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ◆ Will the child's early years setting hold their existing sessions open if/when they need to return?

Yes, the child's existing setting will be able to continue to claim funding for the whole funding period that the child is receiving Specialist Intervention, so they should be happy to hold the child's place open until they return.

- ◆ Can children have transport to get to the specialist intervention location whilst accessing a Specialist Intervention?

No, there is no transport for the child to get to the Specialist Intervention.

- ◆ Will the Specialist Intervention staff help families to choose the right school for their child to move on to?

The Specialist Intervention staff will collect information and evidence about the strategies and support that the child responds to best, and this will help their family to make an informed decision about which school would be right for their child for Year R. The Specialist Intervention staff will be happy to discuss options with families but are not able to recommend particular schools.

- ◆ Is it still possible to take up a specialist intervention if Statutory Assessment has already been initiated?

Yes, however, depending on the status of Statutory Assessment it may change the type of Specialist Intervention offered and the timing of the Specialist Intervention starting.

Partnership Working

Partnerships between the Specialist Intervention and the mainstream Early Years setting are highly valued with the focus being on jointly supporting the child's progress through shared targets and outcomes.

Specialist Intervention Contact Details

Specialist Intervention Contact:

Role:

Email Address:

Phone number:

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