



Easy Read: A Guide for Children and Young People

The Autism Advisory and Intervention Service

Supporting autistic children and young people



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In this Easy Read document, difficult words are in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are blue and underlined. These are links that will go to a website or page which has more information.



Introduction

This document is about the Education Authority's Autism Advisory and Intervention Service.

The Autism Advisory and Intervention Service helps children and young people who:

- Have Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Need support to access learning

People with Autism Spectrum Disorder have difficulty communicating, learning and interacting with other people. Throughout this document, we will use the term **autism**.



What does the Autism Advisory and Intervention Service do?



The Autism Advisory and Intervention Service gives support to children and young people:

- The year or two before pre-school
- At pre-school or nursery school
- At school



We support you by:

- Helping you learn the skills you need arising from autism
- Speaking to school staff and parents about helpful strategies

We can give
parents, carers
and school staff:



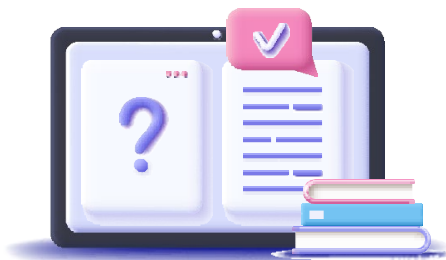
- Information



- Advice



- Training



- Guidance

How to get support



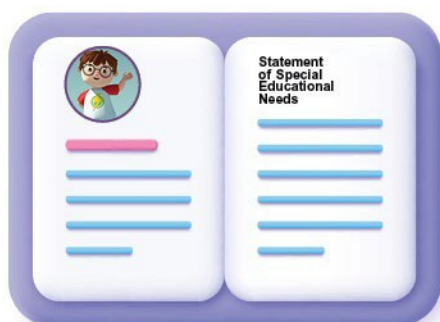
An **educational psychologist** will tell us that a child or young person needs support from us.



Educational psychologists have been trained to understand how children and young people behave and learn.



We can help children and young people with or without a **Statement of Special Educational Needs**.



A **Statement of Special Educational Needs** is a document that describes a child's needs and the special help they should receive.

Pre-school



Usually, an educational psychologist will tell us about pre-school children who need support.



If a child is being assessed for autism and has other needs, the educational psychologist might tell another service that has experts in working with very young children.



When the educational psychologist or the other service tells us about a child, we will try to get in touch with parents within four weeks.

School aged children



An educational psychologist will tell us about school aged children who need support.



When the educational psychologist or the other service tells us about a child, we will try to get in touch with parents within four weeks.

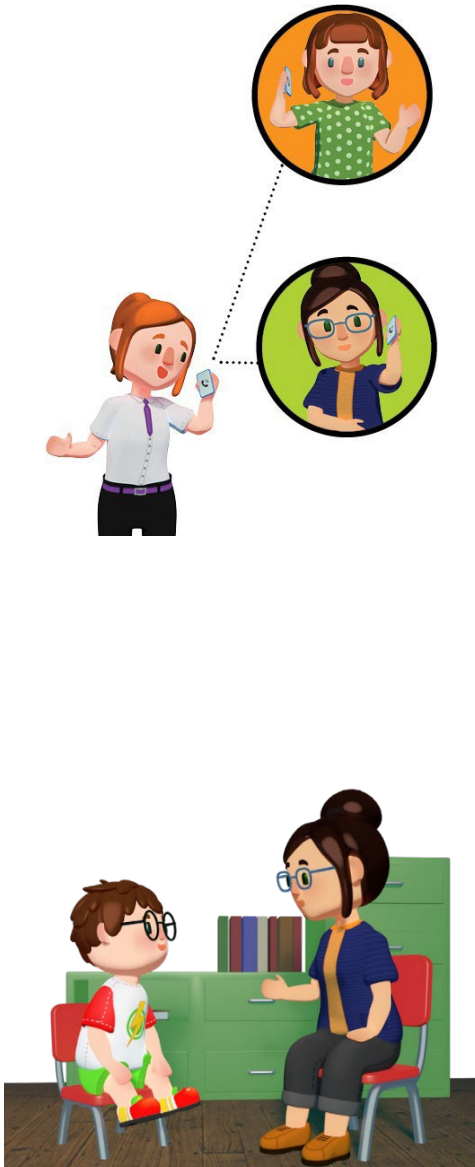
What happens next?



When we hear about your child, we will assign a member of our team to help.

They will:

- Talk to your parents
- Talk to school staff who know you
- Talk to other professionals who know you
- Talk to you. Your feelings and ideas matter too!

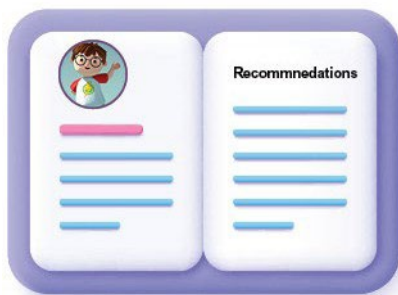




Once we have all the information, we will provide the school with **recommendations** on how to support you.

Recommendations are ideas on how to help you.

This may be in the form of:



- Information and advice about how school staff can help you in school



- Guides, videos and training



- Working directly with you on learning new skills.

How much support will you get?



To make sure we give the right support, we will listen to opinions from:



- You



- School Staff



- Parents or carers



The support we give you will be tailored to your needs.

What if you do not have a diagnosis of autism?



If parents have concerns, they should talk to their child's doctor.



If a child is being assessed for autism, parents may contact us for general advice and support by telephoning the local office. The telephone numbers are on **page 14**.

For more information

You can look at our website:



[Autism Advisory and Intervention Service](#)

If you or your parents need more information, please contact us by:

Phone:

- **Armagh:** 028 3831 4471
- **Ballymena:** 028 2566 1480
- **Belfast:** 028 9078 4230
- **Dundonald:** 028 9056 6392
- **Omagh:** 028 8225 4552

OR

Email:

aaisconsultations@eani.org.uk

