

## What happens if the EP does see my child?

- You will always be told when this is going to happen.
- Involvement always begins with a consultation meeting between home and school. **The EP service follows a consultation model.**

### The EP may decide to do some of the following:

- Observe your child in familiar situations
- Work or play with your child, using a range of tasks and materials/assessments - the psychologist may also try out methods of teaching your child certain skills
- Find out, wherever possible, your child's views about what is important to them
- Use a range of assessments - these can help to get an objective picture of some of your child's skills, and allow comparison with others of the same age
- The aim is to get a clearer picture of how to help your child make progress in school.

### What happens next?

- This depends on the specific plan of action agreed with teachers and yourselves after the EP's involvement with your child.
- Responsibility for daily help and support for your child remains within the school.
- Summaries of involvement (reports, letters or notes) may be sent to parents, teachers and other professionals.
- Written records about children and young people should be fair and accurate.
- Confidential information is only passed on to people who need to know.

## How can you get help?

- Parents who have concerns about their child's learning, emotional well being or overall development should, in the first instance, discuss these with their child's school.



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A guide for parents and carers  
**Educational Psychologists**  
their role and how they can help you



## What is an Educational Psychologist (EP)?

- All EPs have postgraduate training in educational psychology
- They work with children and young people (aged 0-25).

## What kinds of issues do EPs help with?

**EPs can help with a wide range of issues. These include:**

- Learning
- Relationships
- Emotional Well being
- Communication.
- Sensory and Physical needs



## What sort of work does an EP do?

They work in all Local Authority schools as well as children's centres, playgroups and other educational settings

The Educational Psychology Team provides a variety of services within a **consultation framework**. This begins with an initial consultation meeting between yourself, the school and the EP to discuss the child's needs, and collaboratively seek solutions for your child.

- EPs may work directly with children or be involved in discussions about individual children without necessarily meeting them (this will always be with parental agreement).
- The aim is to provide advice to those who have day to day responsibility for meeting the child's educational needs because it is these adults who are in the best position to help.
- Most schools have their own 'link' EP. The school will seek your consent for the EP to become involved before they begin any direct work with your child.
- Your involvement is an important part of any plans for meeting your child's needs and the psychologist will want to find out about some of these things from your perspective. You could collect information to take to the meeting or make a note of any questions that you want to ask. You can also make notes during the meeting if you wish.

## Who do EPs work with, and how?

- Educational Psychologist work closely with parents, teachers, and young people to:
- Work at a systemic level to support whole schools approach to special educational needs
- Provide training and support on key issues for schools and parents
- Remove barriers to education
- Improve emotional well being
- Provide interventions
- Organising courses, workshops and talks for parents, teachers and other professionals
- Visiting schools regularly to consult with teachers on strategies to include children and young people with special educational needs
- Working with other professionals including for example the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Speech and Language Therapists, Paediatricians, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and being involved in multi-agency work