



Education, Health, and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment

This sheet tells you about how to get more support for your child (0-16) or young person (16-25) when the extra help they get at their nursery or school is not enough.

For more detailed information contact WIASS on 020 8871 8065, email, wiass@wandsworth.gov.uk or look at our web site page on [Education, health-and-care\(EHC\) needs assessments](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

My child or young person is getting extra help in their nursery or school, but I'm still worried about how they are getting on. I think they need more support.

What can I do?

Your child or young person may need an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan.

An EHC plan is for children and young people with SEN who need more support than the nursery or school can provide from their budget (money).

If your child or young person needs more support, their nursery or school should ask the Local Authority (council) to do an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment.

This is a detailed assessment of your child's or young person's needs(difficulties) and is the first step to getting an EHC plan.

The Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) thinks my child or young person is doing well and say they don't need an EHC Needs Assessment.

What can I do?

You can ask (request) the council to do an EHC Needs Assessment yourself. This is your right, and you can do this by writing and sending a letter to the council.

WIASS have a template letter that may help – please use the link below:

https://wiass.org.uk/media/p45c0qhr/parent_ehc_needs_assessment_request_letter_template.doc
[X](#)

Will it be quicker if I make the request myself?

No. Once the council tell you they have received the school's EHC Needs Assessment request form or your letter, it will take the same amount of time(See the diagram on the last page).



How long does the council have to carry out an EHC Needs Assessment and issue a final EHC plan?

From the day the council tells you they received the EHC Needs Assessment request, they have **20 weeks** to carry out the EHC Needs Assessment, finalise the EHC plan and send it to you (See the diagram on the last page for more information)

What happens if the council says no to an EHC Needs assessment or a EHC plan?

The council may not agree to do an EHC Needs Assessment.

Or the council may do an EHC Needs Assessment but may think your child or young person does not need an EHC plan.

If this happens, you can appeal (challenge their decision at a tribunal) the council's decision.

This is your right. You have **two months** to appeal from the date you receive the letter informing you of the council's decision.

For more information about appealing, please read our information sheet on a [Right of Appeal to the SEND Tribunal](#)

If your child is aged between 16-25, please read information sheet on [Post 16 EHC Needs Assessments](#)



The Council **must** finalise the EHC plan within 20 weeks of receiving the EHC Needs Assessment request.

