

# Additional or Special Educational Needs Pathway



# Pre-natal and Birth



## The 0-19 Starting Well Service

The Starting Well Service includes early years services (0-5), health visiting, family nurse partnership and 5-19 health and wellbeing services including Children's Centre's.

Starting Well teams include health visitors, nursery workers, early years workers and public health nurses. Our children's centres provide lots of advice and support for families, including 2 year funding and parenting support. Our core purpose is to help in:

- Child development and school readiness
- Parenting aspirations and parenting skills
- Child and family health and life chances

See link for further information about the service:

[0-19 Starting Well Service](#)



**NHS Midwifery service** The local hospital midwifery team offer care throughout pregnancy and after your baby is born. Community midwives look after newly pregnant ladies and mums up to a month after baby is born. Ask at your local [children's centre](#) for details of midwives in your area.

[Cheshire and Mersey Specialist Perinatal Service](#) provides important mental health assessment and support for local women experiencing moderate to severe mental health issues who are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or have a baby who is under 24 months.

## **What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)? (0-5)**

The EYFS outlines what childminders, day nurseries, preschools (providers), school nurseries and reception classes need to do to support your child.

More information about the Early Years Foundation Stage and childcare providers can be found [here](#).

## Useful Resources

Please also see our Useful Resources pages which includes information to support parents, apps that support you throughout pregnancy, support for dads, and websites that can support you to help your child to learn. To view the useful resources section click [here](#).

**The Local Offer** As part of [the Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) code of practice](#) all Local authorities are required to publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) or are disabled. Our Local Offer is part of the [Live Well Cheshire website](#) which includes information and services for adults, children, young people and their families across a broad range of subjects including Education, Health, Social care, wellbeing, employment and much more. To find out more about the Local Offer click [here](#).



## Who are Health Visitors?

Health Visitors are specialist public health practitioners who have expertise in child development and family health. All children until 5 years of age have a Health Visitor.

## What is the Family Nurse Partnership?

Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a free and voluntary programme for young parents expecting their first baby.

For more information about these services click [here](#).

## What is a Children's Centre?

Children's centres provide a wide range of services for prospective parents, children and their families below are some examples of what they offer:

- Let's Play - is a structured group ran by our early years workers. These are free sessions for babies and young children under the age of five and their families.

Sessions are delivered during school term for all children aged 0 to 5 in all main Starting Well Children's Centres.

- Little Readers - are free sessions run once a month by our Early Years Workers in various locations throughout Cheshire West and Chester. Sessions are for babies and young children under the age of five.

- Sensory Room - Five of our children's centres provide hourly bookings in their sensory room. The sensory rooms are equipped with soft play, offering a calming and soothing space for babies and toddlers alike to explore and interact with their environment through light and sound. Families registered at one of our children's centres can book the sensory room for free.

For more information and to find your local Children's Centre click [here](#).

- ICON provides parents and professionals with information, resources and advice around coping with a crying baby

## Useful Resources

Please also see our Useful Resources pages which includes information to support parents, apps that support you throughout pregnancy, support for dads, and websites that can support you to help your child to learn. To view the useful resources section click [here](#).







## Money Matters, help and support

### What is Disability Living Allowance?

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who:

- Is under 16
- has difficulties walking or needs much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability
- National charities [Cerebra](#) and [Contact](#) have information and guides to help families completing a DLA form.

For further information and to apply for DLA click [here](#).

### [Carer's Allowance](#)

- You could get carer's allowance if you care for someone at least 35 hours a week and they get [certain benefits](#).

## Money Matters Section

See also our [Money Matters](#) section which has lots of information including a-z, disability related benefits, carers support and much more.

## Support Groups

For information on support groups available for parents and carers, including The Parent Carer Forum click [here](#).



## Useful Resources

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# 6-12 months



## Professionals you may come into contact with

Information about [education and healthcare professionals](#) that you may come into contact with and a brief description of their role.

### Speech and Language

The Central Cheshire Integrated Care Partnership (CCICP) Children and Young People Speech and Language Service aims to provide high quality specialist assessment and evidenced based interventions for children and young people with a range of speech, language and communication difficulties and/or dysphagia (swallowing). For more information click [here](#). For independent speech and language services click [here](#).

### Occupational Therapy

[The Community Children's Occupational Therapy team](#) sees children and young people who live in the Chester and Ellesmere Port area and have difficulty joining in with the activities they need and want to do every day. We call these activities 'occupations.'

Occupations can include:

- Self-care tasks (e.g. dressing, bathing, using cutlery)
- Education (e.g. handwriting, scissor skills, organising work)
- Play and leisure (e.g. hobbies and sports)

[CCICP Paediatric Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy](#) Paediatric Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Services provide targeted and specialist intervention for babies, children and young people from birth to 16 years of age (18 years of age for those with complex needs) and live in Northwich, Winsford and surrounding areas. For independent occupational therapy click [here](#).

**Children's Centres** Our children's centres are part of Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's (CWP) [Starting Well service for 0-19 year olds](#). Children's centres provide a wide range of services for prospective parents, children and their families. For more information and to find your local Children's Centre click [here](#).

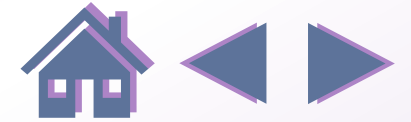
[Team Around the Family](#) - A Team Around the Family, also known as a TAF, is used to get everyone together who is or could be working with your family. With your agreement they will work together to identify the needs and strengths of your family. It will be used to find out what works well in your family, any extra support your family may need and the best way to help you with this.

### Useful Resources

Please also see our Useful Resources pages which includes information to support parents, apps that support you throughout pregnancy, support for dads, and websites that can support you to help your child to learn. To view the useful resources section click [here](#).



# 6-18 months



## What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)? (0-5)

The EYFS outlines what childminders, day nurseries, preschools (providers), school nurseries and reception classes need to do to support your child.

[The Statutory Early Years Foundation Stage Framework \(EYFS\)](#) - sets the standards that all early year's providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. For more information see: ['What to expect in the EYFS' document - Foundation Years](#)

### [Information to Support Parents](#)

- In this section you will find information about Early Years Provision, funding and help with childcare costs, information to support children with Additional and Special Educational Needs, Schools and frequently asked questions. For more information click [here](#).

### Early Years and Childcare

There are lots of resources and information to help you find information about childcare including what types of childcare are available.

- [Parents | PACEY](#)
- [Parents of nursery-aged children – NDNA](#)
- [Parents | early years alliance \(eyalliance.org.uk\)](#)



### Local Early Years and Childcare providers

- You can find local early years childcare in your area by clicking [here](#).
- [Funding and Help paying for childcare](#)

**The Disability Access Fund (DAF)** is money that childcare providers can use to support children with disabilities or special educational needs. If your child receives Disability Living Allowance (DLA) your child's childcare provider is eligible to receive Disability Access Funding (DAF), which is £615 per child per year. Speak to your childcare provider for more information.

- [Team Around the Family](#) - A Team Around the Family, also known as a TAF, is used to get everyone together who is or could be working with your family. With your agreement they will work together to identify the needs and strengths of your family. It will be used to find out what works well in your family, any extra support your family may need and the best way to help you with this.
- [The 0-19 Starting Well Service](#)  
The Starting Well Service brings together early years services, health visiting, family nurse partnership and 5-19 health and wellbeing services including Children's Centres.

### Additional Support

- [Early Years Pathway](#) – for children with Additional Needs, Special Educational Need, or Disability (SEND) in the Early Years
- **Referrals to Health Services** – You will find referral links to Paediatrician, Physio / Occupational Therapy (OT), Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service). The tables provide details of the service and the area that service is for. To find out more click [here](#).

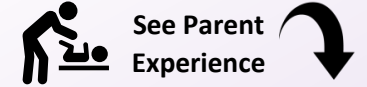
You will also find a range of [health services and information](#) available on our site including our [Children and Young People Section](#).

### Useful Resources

Please also see our Useful Resources pages which includes information to support parents, apps that support you throughout pregnancy, support for dads, and websites that can support you to help your child to learn. To view the useful resources section click [here](#).



# 6-18 months



See Parent  
Experience

Below you will find details of local and national services that provide support to parents and carers. You can also click on the icon See Parent Experience which provides a parent experience within the Early Years and provides direct links to services and information that are available within our Local Offer.

## Support Groups

For information on support groups available for parents and carers, including The Parent Carer Forum click [here](#).

## Support for Carers (including parents)

Our carer support pages provide information and support available to you. For more information click [here](#).



## Services that offer support

- [Council or commissioned services for children and young people in Education](#)
- [Children and Young People's Health Services](#)
- [Social Care – Disabled Children and Young People's Service](#)
- [Local and Surrounding Services in Cheshire West and Chester](#)
- [National Services](#)

## Sleep Support

For information on services available to support click [here](#). You can also find information with useful tips and resources [here](#).

## Useful Resources

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# 18-24 months



## Your baby's health and development reviews

You will be offered regular health and development reviews (health visitor checks) for your baby until they are 2. These are to support you and your baby, and make sure their development is on track. To find out more click [here](#).

## Children's centres

Children's Centres – provide a range of services for prospective parents, children and their families, bringing together early childhood services in the heart of the community. For more information and to find your local Children's Centre click [here](#).

## [The 0-19 Starting Well Service](#)

The Starting Well Service brings together early years services, health visiting, family nurse partnership and 5-19 health and wellbeing services including Children's Centre's.

Your GP and or Health visitor can provide support and can make referrals to other health services as required. Your child may also be referred to a Paediatrician for referral information click [here](#).



[Team Around the Family](#) - A Team Around the Family, also known as a TAF, is used to get everyone together who is or could be working with your family. With your agreement they will work together to identify the needs and strengths of your family. It will be used to find out what works well in your family, any extra support your family may need and the best way to help you with this.

## Autism

[Autism assessment Pathway](#) Services that support children and young people with Autism to view click [here](#).

[The Paediatric Continence Service](#) is a community based nursing service offering assessment, investigation, treatment and management of children with bladder and bowel problems.

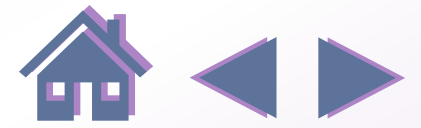
## Additional Support

- [Early Years Pathway](#) – for children with Additional Needs, Special Educational Need, or Disability (SEND) in the Early Years

## Useful Resources

Please also see our Useful Resources pages which includes information to support parents, apps that support you throughout pregnancy, support for dads, and websites that can support you to help your child to learn. To view the useful resources section click [here](#).





## Early Years and Childcare

There are lots of resources and information to help you find information about childcare including what types of childcare are available.

- [Parents | PACEY](#)
- [Parents of nursery-aged children – NDNA](#)
- [Parents | early years alliance \(eyalliance.org.uk\)](#)



## Local Early Years and Childcare providers

- You can find local early years childcare in you area by clicking [here](#).
- 2 year old funding, 15 hours free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds and other funding and help paying for childcare can be found [here](#). **Note relating to 2 year old funding:** Special Educational Needs and Disability Inclusion Funding is provided to support children to access their funded early education entitlement therefore it is only provided for eligible children accessing their funded childcare place.

## Development/Integrated Review (age 2-3)

Starting Well invite all children and their parents to a Development Review around their second birthday. Children attending a childcare setting will have another 'progress check' between the age of 2 and 3 years completed by the Nursery/Pre-School/Childminder. Any advice, support, or actions should be well communicated between parents, Starting Well and the childcare provider, this is often done by sharing documents using secure email / post. Some children may be offered an 'Integrated review' where everyone comes together in one appointment to review a child's progress and next steps - often these joined up meetings help where children's needs are additional to or different from their peers.

Any parent carer with any questions about their child's development, at any age! can contact Starting Well and speak to a Duty Health visitor. Contact details are found at [www.startingwell.org.uk](http://www.startingwell.org.uk)

## Additional Support

- [Early Years Pathway](#) – for children with Additional Needs, Special Educational Need, or Disability (SEND) in the Early Years

- [Early Years Graduated Approach](#) - Where a child appears to be behind expected levels, or where a child's progress gives cause for concern, practitioners should consider all the information about the child's learning and development from within and beyond the setting, from formal checks, from practitioner observations and from any more detailed assessment of the child's needs.
- [Early Years Inclusion Support Funding](#) - provides guidance for parents, carers, early years providers and professionals about the expectations, process and funding arrangements for supporting preschool children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) in Cheshire West and Chester.
- [Early Years Specialist Teaching Service](#) is a team of experienced specialist education professionals, who provide advice and support for Early Years providers to help them support and successfully include children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

## Transition Information and Advice

- [The West Cheshire Children's Trust School Readiness booklet](#) can help you prepare your child for school.
- [Transition to School Information and Advice for Parents and Carers](#)
- [Early Years Transitions](#)

## Starting School

- [Types of school](#) and [school admissions](#)
- [What is a SEN information report?](#)
- [School Transport](#)

## Education, Health and Care Assessment and Plans

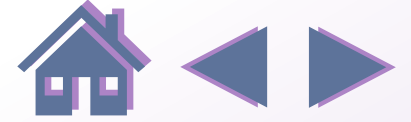
An Education, Health and Care ("EHC") needs assessment is an assessment of the education, health care and social care needs of the child or young person and is commissioned by the Council's SEN Team. The outcome of the assessment may or may not result in an Education, Health and Care Plan.

## Contacts

[SEN Team](#)  
[Information, Advice and Support Service](#)

## Useful Resources

Please also see our Useful Resources pages which includes information to support parents, apps that support you throughout pregnancy, support for dads, and websites that can support you to help your child to learn. To view the useful resources section click [here](#).



## Applying for a school place

*Cheshire West and Chester Council has a priority to increase the percentage of learners with an Education Health and Care Plan to access mainstream provision. To do this we are looking at working with our schools and colleges in developing a range of provisions to support young people in accessing education in their locality.*

- [Types of school](#) and [school admissions](#)
- [What is a SEN information report?](#)
- [School Transport](#)

**Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)** is a teacher who is responsible for special educational needs at school. All schools have a SENCO. SENCOs work with other teachers and parents to make sure that children with special educational needs get the right support and help they need at school.

**Child and Educational Psychologists (CEPs)** are applied psychologists working with children and young people, their families, schools/settings and other professionals. We provide advice on children and young people's learning, social, emotional, behavioural and developmental needs. For details about Child and Educational Psychology Service click [here](#).

## SEN Support

Where a child or young person may have Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) a nursery, school or college should take action to remove any barriers to learning and put support in place. This is known as [SEN Support](#).

## Top up Funding

Primary and secondary schools within Cheshire West and Chester Council may apply for top-up funding or what is also known as element 3 high needs funding for children and young people who are residents within the borough.

## Education, Health and Care Assessment and Plans

An Education, Health and Care ("EHC") needs assessment is an assessment of the education, health care and social care needs of the child or young person and is commissioned by the Council's SEN Team. The outcome of the assessment may or may not result in an Education, Health and Care Plan.

## Where can I go for help?

[Information, Advice and Support Service](#)

[SEN Team](#)

[Team Around the Family](#)

[Social Care - Disabled children and young people's service](#)

[Parent Carer Forum](#)

## Useful Resources

Please also see our Useful Resources pages which includes information to support parents, apps that support you throughout pregnancy, support for dads, and websites that can support you to help your child to learn. To view the useful resources section click [here](#).



## Services that can support

### Social Care

- [Disabled Children and Young People's Service](#)
- [Direct Payments](#)

### Short Breaks

[Short Breaks](#) are services that can help families with a disabled child

- They give disabled children the chance to have time away from their families, make new friends and have fun
- They give parents a break from caring for their child
- They give parents the chance to spend time with their other children

- [Groups and Activities](#)
- [The Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#)

- [Team Around the Family](#)

- [Starting Well 0-19](#)

- [Children and Young People's Health Services](#)

- [Council or commissioned services for children and young people in Education](#)
- [Local and Surrounding Services in Cheshire West and Chester](#)
- [National Services](#)

### Can't find what your looking for?

If you can't find the information or service you are looking for please contact:

#### **Emma Walker**

Live Well Co-Ordinator for children's services and the Local Offer

[emma.walker@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:emma.walker@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)





# Useful Resources



## Information to Support Parents

- In this section you will find information about Early Years Provision, funding and help with childcare costs, information to support children with Additional and Special Educational Needs, Schools and frequently asked questions. For more information click [here](#).
- [Starting Well](#) - There is a variety of resources and activities available for parents and carers of children aged 0-5 years to support their development and learning in readiness for school.
- [CATCH App](#) - CATCH is a free NHS health app for parents and carers of children from pregnancy to age 5.
- [DadPad](#) Is the essential guide for new dads, developed with the NHS.
- [NHS Pregnancy week-by-week](#) - Find out what to expect from every week of your pregnancy
- [BBC's Tiny happy People](#) - is here to help you develop your child's language skills. Explore our simple activities and play ideas and find out about babies and toddlers' amazing early development.
- [NSPCC's Look, Say, Sing, Play](#) - gives parents, carers and anyone looking after a child free tools to help them to have higher quality interactions with their little ones.
- [Hungry little Minds](#) from HM Government
- [School readiness booklet](#) (PDF, 944KB)
- [Parenting resources](#)

## Parenting Programmes

- [Incredible Years Parenting Programmes](#) - The incredible Years® is a series of interlocking, evidence-based programmes for parents, children and teachers, supported by over 30 years of research
- [1-2-3 Magic](#) - 1-2-3 Magic is a behavioural management programme for parents and other carers of young children (2-12yrs).

## Support Services

- [Local and Surrounding Services in Cheshire West and Chester](#)
- [National Services](#)



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If you can't find the information or service you are looking for please contact:

#### **Emma Walker**

Live Well Co-Ordinator for children's services and the Local Offer

[emma.walker@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:emma.walker@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)



I was told my daughter was delayed at her 2 year development check and would be referred to a paediatrician.

A few months later our appointment day arrived, my daughter was seen and observed, and I was told my daughter may have autism and possible learning disability. I was told to contact my health visitor, I was given information about Disability Living Allowance and also discussed my daughter starting with an early years provider and being supported by Speech and Language Therapy.

This was all a shock and very new to me. I contacted my Health visitor and got support to apply for Disability Living Allowance. My child started at a nursery and was supported by early years specialists and the nurse on the health visiting team, this became our support network.

I was directed to a specialist school for their stay and play sessions and made contact, this took a lot for me to go to but once I walked through the door and got to meet other parents in a similar situation and school support staff this gave me the encouragement I needed and stopped us as a family feeling isolated.

At nursery we had support put in place and my daughter was visited by Speech and Language Therapist and specialist school outreach team.

My daughter was diagnosed with Autism and we applied for an Education, Health and Care Plan. We looked at schools available and options that would best support my daughter's needs.

***"For any parent the start of the journey can be very isolating and you wonder how you will manage, my advice is go out there and join anything available to you and your child's needs this will help you understand and get a support network behind you, you are not alone"*** ❤️

## Information, support and services on our Local offer

[Information about what if your child has Special Educational Needs](#) and who you can talk to about your concerns including the Information, Advice and Support Service

[Overview of professionals who you may come into contact with](#) in supporting your child with a brief description of their role.

[0-19 Starting Well Service](#) – Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership

[Early Years Providers](#)

[Information about Disability Living Allowance](#)

[Speech and Language Therapy Service](#) and [Independent Speech and Language Therapy](#)

[Early Years Specialist Teaching Service](#)

[Services and Information that can help with Disability Living Allowance](#)

[Support services for parents and carers](#)

[Information about Money and Benefits](#) and [services who provide advice](#)

[Types of school](#)

[Stay and Play Sessions](#)

[Short Breaks](#)

[Early Years Pathway 0-5 years](#)

[Early Years Graduated Approach](#)

[Early Years Inclusion Support Funding](#)

[Early Years Specialist Teaching Service](#)

[SEN Team](#)

[Information, Advice and Support Service](#)

[What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?](#)

[Autism Support](#)

[School Admissions](#) and [Schools within Cheshire West and Chester](#)

[What is an SEN Information Report?](#)

[Council Services supporting Children and Young People in Education](#)

[Children and Young People's Health](#)

[Social Care – Disabled Children and Young People's Service](#)



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