

What is your child like now?

- General health
- Physical skills
- Self-help – e.g. Level of personal independence
- Communication
- Playing and learning at home
- Activities outside school
- Relationships – e.g. with parents, brothers and sisters, and friends
- Behaviour at home
- At school – e.g. What does he or she find easy or difficult?
- What do you think your child's special educational needs are?
- What is your child good at or what does he or she enjoy doing?
- What does your child worry about?
- Is there any other information you would like to give:
 - about your family
 - major events that might have affected your child
 - reports from other people
- How do you think your child's needs affect the needs of the family as a whole?
- With whom would you like more contact?



😊 Further information and support

At any stage you can seek further information and support from the Parent Partnership Service. You can also choose to have a Parent Partner who may be able to help you present your views. If you would like to know more about Parent Partners contact the Plymouth Parent Partnership Service on 01752 258933





If you would like more information on any of these materials, or support from a Parent Partner (Independent Parental Supporter), please contact:

Plymouth Parent Partnership Service

Martins Gate, Bretonside, Plymouth PL4 0AT

Telephone: 01752 258933 Email: parent.partnership@plymouth.gov.uk

www.plymouthparentpartnership.org.uk





How can parents help?



- Impartial
- Confidential
- Free



How can parents help?

As a parent you have a vital role to play in your child's education. There are many things you can do to help. Here are a few suggestions:

- Listen to your child; encourage and praise them to keep their self-esteem high
- You know your child better than anyone; share all the information you have about them with their school and other professionals involved
- Keep in touch with school and discuss how you can work in partnership to support your child
- Always contact school if you have any concerns or questions about your child's education
- Find out as much as you can about special educational needs
- Ask to see the school's policy on special educational needs
- Ask for support and advice from a parents' group or voluntary organisation
- Keep your own records of phone calls and meetings
- Try to keep all your paperwork together in a folder



😊 When going to a meeting it is helpful if you:

- Are sure you know what the meeting is for
- Know exactly when and where it is taking place and how long it will last
- Let the school know well in advance if the date or time is inconvenient for you so they can make other arrangements
- Have made any necessary arrangements for childcare if your child is not attending the meeting
- Have all the information you may need before the meeting e.g. copies of any reports, letters
- Make a note of things you wish to discuss or questions you might like to ask – you can use this note as a reminder during the meeting



You can also take a friend or Parent Partner (Independent Parental Supporter) with you who can take notes if you wish. You should let the school know if you are going to do this.

😊 Helpful tips when at the meeting:

- Make sure you know who is “chairing” the meeting and who is taking notes
- Everyone should introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting. If this doesn’t happen, ask them to do so
- Ask people to repeat or explain things if you do not hear or do not understand.
- Listen to those present. Ask questions
- Keep calm and to the point if you can, even if things are not going well

- Write things down if you need to, it may help you to remember what has been said
- At the end of the meeting ask if someone can repeat what has been agreed or decisions that have been made
- Make sure arrangements are made for a written report or minutes of the meeting to be sent to you
- Try not to be put off. Sometimes meetings are the best way to make things happen for your child. They are about talking and listening. Everyone present will want the meeting to work.

😊 How you can help with any assessment of your child's special educational needs

Sometimes your child's school may seek further advice from other professionals about your child's special educational needs. In a few cases this may lead to the Local Education Authority (Plymouth City Council) consulting with you about a statutory assessment of your child's special educational needs, which might result in a Statement of Special Educational Need being issued. If so, you should be kept fully informed by the school and the City Council.

It is very important that all those working with your child have full information about their special needs. What follows is a short guide to the type of information you might want to share with those who work with your child. More detailed guidance on contributing your views as part of a statutory assessment of your child's needs can be obtained from the Parent Partnership Service.

The early years

- What do you remember about the early years that might help?
- When did you first feel things were not right?
- What has happened since then?

