

For further details and other information please contact:

Jane Marsh
Head of Service
Specialist Early Years Service
The Mere Education Centre
Lawnswood Road
Wordsley
Stourbridge
DY8 5PQ

Tel: 01384 814 364

Email: seys@dudley.gov.uk

Web: www.localoffer.dudley.gov.uk/



Specialist Early Years Service

Our Service

Who works for the Service?

The Service is made up of a head of service, a deputy, specialist teachers and teaching assistants, who are all specially trained and experienced in working with children with a wide range of additional educational needs. The service is part of Specialist Inclusion Services.

Who does the Service help?

The Service supports any child who:

- Lives in the Dudley borough
- Is aged between birth and entry into full-time school
- Has a significant developmental delay in their learning or has a diagnosis indicating that there will be additional educational needs

The team also provide:

- Advice and support for settings
- Training for nursery settings and parents
- A parent support group

How are children referred to the Service?

A referral is usually made by any professional who works with the child, such as a paediatrician, speech and language therapist, health visitor or GP. Parents can also make a referral for their child by contacting us using the details on the back of this leaflet. A letter confirming that we have received the referral, and that the child will be allocated to a teacher as soon as possible, will be sent to the parent and the referrer.

What happens next?

One of the teachers will visit the child, either at home or at their setting, to determine what level of support is needed. The support provided depends on the child's age, level of additional need, and the kind of assistance the parents prefer. On occasion we may suggest other professionals who may be more appropriate meet the needs of the child.

Once this has been agreed, the child will receive support for as long as needed, up until full-time school age. This could include home visits, a place in a specialist or enhanced nursery, regular support in the child's setting, or aiding transition into school.

Our Service works alongside other Educational and Healthcare professionals to support both parents and children.

Overall aim

We aim to:

- Provide early assessment of need and support to ensure the child fulfils their potential
- Support parents on their journey
- Ensure that the child is able to access a stimulating nursery environment adapted to their needs
- Plan for a smooth transition into full time school which may involve assessment for an Education Health and Care Plan

Parents as Partners

We believe parents know their child best; we aim to always work in partnership with them.