

KNOWSLEY EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE: Early Years Group Consultation

This leaflet aims to answer frequently asked questions about Group Consultation. We hope it helps you understand who Educational Psychologists are and how they work in Knowsley

Who are Educational Psychologists?

We are Psychology graduates who have completed further professional training to specialise in Educational Psychology. This training helps us to understand how children develop and learn and what may affect their progress and behaviour.

Who do we work with?

We work for children and young people aged 0 – 25 years who:

- Have identified difficulties affecting their development
- Development seems different to their same age classmates
- Behaviour is causing concern
- Need a supported transition into school



One of the most effective ways that we support children & young people is by working with the professionals that support them.

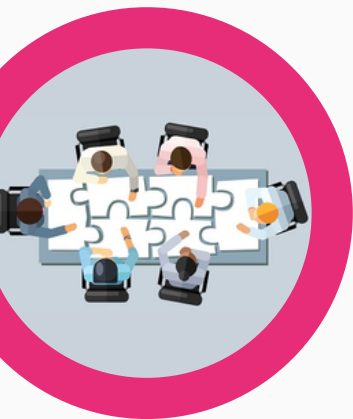
Early Years Group Consultation

If your child is in an Early Years setting, staff have access to Educational Psychology support through Group Consultation meetings.

In these meetings, an educational psychologist works collaboratively with staff from various Early Years settings to come up with ways of understanding a child's difficulties and develop actions that are likely to create positive changes.

We go on to review which strategies have worked and why.

This way of working is called consultation. It combines our expertise in psychology with the knowledge and expertise of the key adults and Area SENCo (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator). It is a graduated approach that allows us to become more involved if necessary.



What will happen if we are asked to help your child?

- To specifically help your child we need a signed parental consent. Before you are asked to sign, staff supporting your child should explain why they think we may be able to help.
- We will problem-solve in a group with a member of staff who knows your child well.
- A consultation record or a report will be produced and staff will be given a copy. Staff supporting your child should discuss the contents with you promptly and outline what strategies they will use and why and how they will record resulting progress in your child's file. These files move with your child as they progress through education.
- We also keep a copy of consultation records and reports in a secure and confidential file about your child. The Early Years setting should have provided you with a copy of the Educational Psychology Service Privacy Policy. You can ask to see your child's files.
- We are happy to answer further queries you may have.



Early Years Group Consultation Summary

The SENCo and Early Years setting staff have identified that your child has some needs, they have already chatted to you about this and shared some of the strategies that they have in place to support your child. The SENDCo may feel that they would benefit from some additional support from the Educational Psychology Service.

Next Steps:

The SENCo asks your permission to involve an Educational Psychologist. A parent/carer with parental responsibility will be asked to sign a consent form before this involvement can begin

With signed consent, the SENCo discusses your child at a group consultation meeting. This is a joint problem-solving meeting where under the guidance of an Educational Psychologist, the people attending suggest ideas and new strategies for your child's Early Years setting to try

SENCo meets with Early Years staff and parents/carers to problem-solve and agree new strategies

New strategies are implemented to support the child/young person and reviewed regularly

Following a review, if no extra advice is needed, there will be no further involvement

Following a review, if extra advice is needed, the SENCO discusses your child's progress again at a group consultation. New strategies are agreed and shared