

I think my child might need
more support in school.
What can I do about it?



Don't just think it,

Enquire

www.enquire.org.uk

0845 123 2303

Getting help

As parents and carers you want your child to get the most from school. If you think your child might need extra support with learning but don't know how to make this happen, then Enquire is here for you.

What we do?

Enquire is the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning. We offer advice and information through our website, by email or by telephone. We help parents and carers understand their child's rights to extra help at school.

Why we do it?

Additional support for learning isn't just a good idea - it's the law.

The Additional Support for Learning Act spells out pupils' rights to get the help and support they need to become successful learners.

Enquire helpline 0845 123 2303 - we're here for you

What you can expect from us

Enquire staff will:

- listen to your views and concerns
- explain the law and how it relates to each of your issues
- advise you on the way forward.

How to get in touch

Phone us on 0845 123 2303

Email us at info@enquire.org.uk

Our website www.enquire.org.uk has lots of info that you and your child might find useful

Helpline opening hours

Monday 9am - 4.30pm

Tuesday 9am - 4.30pm

Wednesday 9am - 4.30pm

Thursday 9am - 4.30pm

Friday 9am - 4.30pm

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What ‘additional support for learning’ means

A lot of people aren’t sure what ‘additional support for learning’ means. It doesn’t only apply to children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Children can need support for many other reasons.

These include:

- finding it difficult to control their behaviour
- making themselves understood (because English is not their first language or because of a speech and language difficulty)
- having a mental health problem
- being bullied
- being abused or neglected
- caring for someone at home
- difficulties with reading or spelling
- being far ahead of classmates in their subjects
- changing schools a lot
- being a young parent
- dealing with the death of a loved one
- being ‘looked after’ or in care
- having an alcohol or drug problem.

Some children and young people need a lot of support all the way through school. Others only need a small amount for a short time.

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all pictures posed by models

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What your rights include

The ASL Act gives you as a parent or carer certain rights under the law.

These include:

- the right to ask your education authority to find out if your child has additional support needs
- the right to information and advice about your child's additional support needs
- the right to have a supporter or advocate with you at any meeting with the school or education authority.

It also puts responsibilities on education authorities to make sure your child's needs are met.

If your child is 16 years old or over, they have the same rights listed here as you.

The law also suggests that it is good practice to involve parents in planning their child's additional learning support.

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What sort of support might be available?

There are many ways support can be given to a child. If you think that your child might need help, start by talking to staff at his/her school.

Available support may include:

- time with learning support staff
- assistance from a therapist e.g. a speech and language therapist or physiotherapist
- equipment, such as a laptop
- strategies, such as time out
- more time to complete school work and exams
- different types of support in exams
- ‘buddy’ support from an older pupil
- meetings to discuss learning plans
- referrals to sources of help outside school, such as the NHS.

Support should be designed to meet your child’s individual needs.

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What parents have said about Enquire

“I always find Enquire staff extremely polite, professional and informed. An invaluable resource. Thank you so much.”

“Excellent service. Helpful helpline worker - delivered complex information simply. Many thanks.”

Enquire publications

We have a range of guides and factsheets for parents, carers, children and young people.

Examples of our guides are:

The parents' guide to additional support for learning

Going to a new school

Getting ready to leave school

Need extra help at school?



Enquire is managed by Children in Scotland and funded by the Scottish Government