

# Parent-Friendly Guide: Early Development SEND Pathways

## What is the SEND Pathway?

The SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) pathway helps identify and support children with additional needs, starting from pregnancy through early childhood. It ensures children get the right help at the right time.

## How does it work?

### 1. Before Birth:

- If an ultrasound finds any health concerns, you may be referred to a screening or fetal medicine team for more tests and support.

### 2. At Birth:

- Babies born with identified needs may be referred to a Consultant Paediatrician for a full assessment.
- If your baby has special educational needs or disabilities, the hospital will send a Notification of SEND to:
  - The West Berkshire Early Development & Inclusion Team (EDIT).
  - The West Berkshire Health Visiting Team.

### 3. After Birth:

- The West Berkshire Health Visiting Service will support your family at home, providing ongoing assessments and referrals to services like:
  - Speech and Language Therapy.
  - Occupational Therapy.
  - Physiotherapy.



# Who can help my child?

## Health Services

- **Health Visiting Team:**
  - Supports families with ongoing advice, assessments, and referrals to specialists.
  - Contact via the Chat Health Text Messaging Service: 07312 263283.
  - Learn more here: <https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk>
- **GP (General Practitioner):**
  - Regular health checks and immunizations.
  - Can refer your child to specialists if needed.
- **Speech and Language Therapy:**
  - Helps children with communication challenges.
  - Speech and Language Therapy Resources: <https://berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk>
- **Occupational Therapy (OT):**
  - Supports everyday skills like dressing, eating, and interacting.
  - Children's OT Services: <https://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/services-and-departments/occupational-therapy/childrens-occupational-therapy>
- **Physiotherapy:**
  - Helps children with movement and physical development needs.
  - Learn about Physiotherapy Services <https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk>
- **Early Years Support:**
  - West Berkshire Early Development and Inclusion Team (EDIT):
  - Works with families and early years settings to promote children's learning and development.
  - Email: [learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk)
- **Family Hubs:**
  - Offer parenting courses, family support, and SEND-specific drop-in sessions.
  - Find a Family Hub: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/familyhubs>
- **Early Years Team:**
  - Provides advice for families and professionals about emerging SEND needs.
  - EY Advice Line: 01635 503500.
  - Email: [earlyyearsservice@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyearsservice@westberks.gov.uk)

## What other support is available?

- **West Berkshire SEND Local Offer:**
  - A guide to services, support, and activities for children with SEND.
  - Visit the Local Offer: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/42837/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disability-SEND-Local-Offer>

- **SEND Information and Advice Support Service (SENDIASS):**
- Provides free, impartial advice for families about education, health, and social care.
- Learn more about SENDIASS: <https://westberkssendiass.info>
- **Parenting Special Children:**
- Specialist support for parents of children with SEND.
- Visit Parenting Special Children: <https://www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk>
- **Swings and Smiles:**
- A play centre for children with SEND and their families.
- Learn more about Swings and Smiles: <https://www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk>
- **Dingley's Promise:**
- Provides early intervention, family support, and nursery services for children with SEND.
- Contact Dingley's Promise: <https://www.dingley.org.uk>
- **West Berkshire Mencap:**
- Offers services for people with learning disabilities and their families.
- Learn more about Mencap: <https://www.wbmencap.org>

## What should I do if I need help?

1. Speak to your health visitor, GP, or early years setting: They can assess your child and refer you to the right services.
2. Contact the Early Response Hub (ERH) for additional support:
  - Self-referral is available for families.
  - Learn about the ERH: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/42224/The-Early-Response-Hub>