

WHAT IS DIFFERENTIATION?

Differentiation means teaching a child in ways and at levels which match their ways of learning.

WHAT ARE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES?

Most children with learning difficulties find it significantly harder to learn than most other children of the same age. They could have a problem with general understanding, behaviour, reading, numbers, communicating etc. A disability which makes it difficult for a child to use educational facilities can also lead to them having learning difficulties.

WHAT ARE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS?

A child with learning difficulties generally needs extra help in education. For this reason they are said to have special educational needs (SEN). Children with the most serious difficulties have a Statement of special educational needs - a document that spells out what help they will get. Children who have less severe special educational needs are generally given help through Early Years Action/School Action or Early Years Action/School Action Plus.

WHAT IS THE CODE OF PRACTICE?

A Government guide to make sure children with special educational needs get the right help at school. The law says that schools (including pre schools) and local education authorities must "have regard" to the Code and must not ignore it.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN AS PARTNERS

The Code says parents should tell the school about any worries that they have. Schools should value parents' contribution. Parents of children with special educational needs should be treated as partners.