

7 minute briefing: Working with Children with SEND Date June 2022



Introduction

There are 44,668 children on roll across all year groups in Greenwich, of which 7889 were recorded as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities*.

Children with SEND are at an increased risk of abuse and neglect.

Many of the recent CSPR's the featured children with additional needs **Child Z**, (age 2) had additional complex health needs, **Child A**, (15) had an EHCP for moderate learning difficulties, **Child B** (4) had a diagnosis of autism

Children C & D Child D (15) had EHCP and Child C (5) was going through the process to obtain EHCP.

Further reading

[Safeguarding d/Deaf and disabled children | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Children with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\) | NSPCC Learning](#)

[SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Published reviews - Greenwich](#)

Voice of the Child

Every child with SEND can express their wishes and feelings. Professionals should always find ways to this.

Every child makes their likes/dislikes known in some way. Learn about the child's communication methods and use their voice. Get help from others if needed

Practice tips & guidance

Consider the cultural context for the family, be curious as to what having a child with SEND means to the family in their community.

All professionals must be aware that disabled children are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect, don't be over-optimistic

An understanding of the underlying disability and how the child's development is affected is essential to understanding any abuse or neglect

What is SEND?

According to the SEND Code of Practice (2015) : A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them

A disability is defined as '...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities' **Equality Act 2010**

Recognising Abuse and Neglect for children with SEND

Observations of physical signs, behaviour or mood changes are the most likely indicators of abuse and neglect for a child with SEND

Withholding or not engaging in necessary support services to assist in meeting the child's needs could be neglect.

Additional Risks & vulnerabilities of children with SEND

Barriers to the provision of support services which increases family isolation

More likely to spend time in the care of others, including dependent on others to provide personal and intimate care
Barriers to other people understanding the child's communications

Lack of professional curiosity
Professional optimism

Attitudes and assumptions within society can make disabled children more vulnerable

*Figure is based upon January 2021 School Census and includes all schools, i.e. nursery, primary, secondary,