

EARLY YEARS SUPPORT FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES



**CROYDON'S LOCAL OFFER OF SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-25 WITH SEND
SUMMER 2015**

EARLY YEARS SUPPORT FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Children's Centres

There is a lot of support available at children's centres and always someone to talk to. Children's centre services are available for everyone and you can register at your local children's centre as soon as your baby is born – or even before. If you would like someone to contact you please let your health visitor know or call your local children's centre.

Family support workers are available to talk to at children's centre sessions and can provide practical support if needed. Family support workers work closely with other professionals that may be supporting you and your child, such as midwives, health visitors and speech and language therapists.

Children's centre services work closely with Croydon health visitors who lead the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP). HCP offers every family a programme of screening tests, immunisations, developmental reviews, and information and guidance to support parenting and healthy choices. For more information about the Healthy Child programme contact your health visitor or your local children's centre – or go to:

www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-all-children-a-healthy-start-in-life

There are groups to support development and learning for children with additional needs around the borough and activities include:

- Singing and signing
- Communication and visual supports
- Small steps to learning
- Sensory and messy play
- Support for parents and carers.

Mondays: 10-12 noon at Woodlands Children's Centre

 **020 8916 0543**

Mondays: 1- 3pm at Selhurst Children's Centre

 **020 8684 3777**

Wednesdays: 10 -11.30am Kensington Avenue Children's Centre

 **020 8765 8128**

Fridays: 10-12 noon at Malling Close Children's Centre

 **020 8655 5680**

There are also a range of support groups for parents that can be found in children's centres that are run in partnership with voluntary and community organisations experienced in supporting families.

Ask your local children's centre for details of current sessions. For a list of children's centres in Croydon go to:

 www.familyspacecroydon.co.uk/search/browse/childcare/childrens-centres

Early Education and Childcare

All 3 and 4 year olds and some 2 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early years education.

- 2 year olds: they are entitled to 15 hours free early education and childcare if the following criteria are met:
- You receive Income Support, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, Income related Employment and Support Allowance, support under part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, State Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit, providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credits and have an annual income as assessed by HMRC that does not exceed £16,190.
- You receive Working Tax Credits and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- The child is entitled to Disability Living Allowance
- The child is looked after by the local authority
- The child is no longer looked after by the local authority as a result of an adoption order, a special guardianship order or a residence order.
- 3 year olds: all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to free early education and childcare from the term after he/she reaches 3 years of age.

FUNDING STARTS

A child born on or between 1 April and 31 August will become eligible for a place from 1 September.

A child born on or between 1 September and 31 December will become eligible for a place from 1 January.

A child born on or between 1 January and 31 March will become eligible for a place from 1 April.

You can access your free education and childcare place in an Ofsted registered provision. Ofsted registration helps to make sure that children and young people are cared for in the safe environment they need. The types of childcare providers you can access are listed below:

Childminders – provide full/part time childcare within their own home for all ages up to 18

Day nurseries – provide full/ part time childcare in a setting for children aged up to 5 years – all year round.

Pre-schools – provide part time childcare in a setting for children aged 2-5 years – term time only.

Nursery schools and classes – provide full/part time childcare in a setting for children aged up to 5 years.

Special Needs Support

All early years settings have a pre-school special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) or inclusion lead. They will talk to you about your child's needs and how the setting can best support them. It is their responsibility to co-ordinate support for your child in the setting and to liaise with other professionals to ensure that all the needs of your child are planned for in advance. They can help with providing

specialist equipment and support for referrals for statutory assessment. They will also help to co-ordinate Early Help interventions.

The **Family and Childcare Trust** provides information on the types of childcare and how to choose it.
 www.familyandchildcaretrust.org

CHILDCARE

To find registered childcare in your area go to:

 www.familyspacecroydon.co.uk/landing/childcare

EARLY HELP FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED UNDER 5

Children, young people and their families must be offered help when needs and/or concerns are first identified. Early help is based on these principles:

- early identification and intervention
- effective integrated support for children with complex needs
- children, young people and their families are listened to
- agencies work together with shared responsibility
- safe-guarding and welfare of the child/young person is paramount.
- helping families to help themselves.

These principles apply where special needs are identified. If needs are identified that cannot be supported by the setting, then additional support can be provided which may include several agencies. If special needs are identified, referral or involvement from other services will always be in discussion with parents and carers. See below for information on the Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities team and the Early Intervention and Family Support service.

EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORT SERVICE

The service provides advice and support to early years settings including training for SENCOs and inclusion leads. The service will also give support on observation and strategies for helping children who need extra help. Training to support a child's specific needs and extra staffing and resources may also be provided as well as support for developing and managing individual education plans, making referrals for specialist services and advising parents.

Settings can request ordinarily available support from

 child.care@croydon.gov.uk

For information or requests for targeted and specialist support go to:

 earlyhelp@croydon.gov.uk

NURSERY SCHOOLS AND NURSERY CLASSES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

 www.croydon.gov.uk/education/nursery-preschools to find more details on nursery schools

Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Team

The Early Years SEND Team offers a range of services for families whose children (aged 0-5) have significant developmental delay, disabilities and social communication difficulties both at home and in Early Years settings. The team ensure that a package of support is delivered that reflects the individual needs of the child and their family and may be a combination of the different services offered by the team, including:

PORTAGE SERVICE

The Portage Service is a home teaching scheme for parents of children under five with significant needs in two or more developmental areas. A member of the Early Years SEND team will work with the child and their family to identify the child's skills and encourage progress in play, communication and learning. The team offer advice and guidance to parents when choosing an early years setting. They also offer advice clinics within local children's centres. The team will make assessments of a child's educational needs and refer for statutory assessment where appropriate.

For more information on Portage go to the National Portage Association www.portage.org.uk

SUPPORT FOR COMPLEX SPECIAL NEEDS

The Early Support Programme is for families whose children (aged 0-5) have complex additional needs and disabilities. These families often have many different people working with them to support their child - different therapies, hospital, community doctors and other specialist services. Croydon families are eligible for this service if they have (or are likely to have) at least 4 targeted services working with them to support their child.

Working with so many people can become overwhelming and difficult to manage. The Early Years SEND team helps families to coordinate all the different services, helping everyone to communicate and work together.

Each family has a key worker to act as a single point of contact for all the other people around them and will work with the family to identify the issues that are most important for them. Key workers and families work together towards agreed goals, which might include arranging meetings with all the professionals to discuss the things that are most important to families, sorting out appointments, obtaining information about a child's condition, providing emotional support during times of stress and celebrating successes.

SUPPORT IN EARLY YEARS SETTINGS

Specialist advice, guidance and support is available for helping children with a high level of need. Settings will be given support for developing and managing SEND Support Plans / Individual Education Plans, making referrals for specialist services, advising parents and providing funding for extra staffing and specialist equipment where needed. Children with a high level of needs are supported by the Early Years SEND team once they start to attend a setting. Usually the team have already been working with the child and family at home and so this service provides continued, consistent support from a worker that already knows the child and family well. As well as ensuring that suitable support, equipment and training is provided to the setting, they also monitor children's progress and offer educational advice to support the setting to submit statutory assessment requests when appropriate. The team provides this support to the setting, child and family until the child moves into school. They help to support the family to consider possible schools that will best support their needs and ensure that the family's preference is taken into account when school places are allocated. The team ensure that everyone working with the child and family communicate and share information in order to plan for the child's move into school. Often a multi-agency meeting is organised with the family at the centre to make sure that everything is in place before the child starts school.

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION SUPPORT

The Early Years SEND team work closely with family support workers, health and voluntary agencies in Croydon to offer a range of support for families with children identified as having social communication difficulties. This includes a course for parents and carers that supports understanding of their child's needs but also provides practical advice and guidance on how to support and manage this at home. The team also offer packages of home visiting to help parents and carers to further develop strategies at home, support for children in early years settings and providing help to parents when selecting nursery and school places for their child.

Referrals to the Early Years SEND team will be accepted from health, other professionals or directly from families. To make a referral please contact:

📧 earlyyearsSEND@croydon.gov.uk
☎ 020 8604 7263

SPECIALIST EARLY YEARS SETTINGS

Many children with special needs are able to go to local playgroups and nurseries. However, if a child's special needs are complex or severe, parents may find that a specialist nursery would be more suitable. These settings work closely with therapists to support individual children.

SPECIALIST NURSERY PROVISION IN CROYDON

CROYDON OPPORTUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

offers specialist care for children with a variety of additional needs, including those with severe and profound learning difficulties and disabilities.

Contact: Croydon Opportunity Pre-School Group, Oasis Academy Children's Centre, Malling Close, Stockbury Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7YD

☎ 020 8655 5684

📧 admin@copg.org

🌐 www.croydonopportunitygroup.org

WILLOW TREE NURSERY

at Gilbert Scott School provides a setting for children with severe learning difficulties and autism.

Contact: Gilbert Scott Primary School, Farnborough Avenue, South Croydon CR2 8HD

☎ 020 8657 4722

📧 admin@gilbertscott.croydon.school.uk

🌐 www.gilbertscott.croydon.school.uk/index.html

WINTERBOURNE NURSERY ENHANCED LEARNING PROVISION (ELP)

Winterbourne School is an assessment nursery for children with moderate delay and a combination of speech, language and social interaction difficulties. Some children may have a diagnosis of autism.

Contact: Winterbourne Nursery and Infant School, Winterbourne Road, Thornton Heath, Croydon, CR7 7QT

☎ 020 8689 7684

As places are limited, admission to specialist Early Years provision is managed through a central process within Croydon council. This ensures that each child is considered equally and fairly based on their educational needs. For copies of the admissions processes and criteria please

Contact: the Early Years SEND team.

📧 earlyyearsSEND@croydon.gov.uk

☎ 020 8604 7263



Support for Parents

JUBILEE CHILL 'N CHAT

Weekly groups for parents/carers of children (0-5) with special needs. Information, support and 'me-time' treats to keep you going!

Tuesdays 9.30 -11.30 am

Woodlands Children's Centre,
Gilbert Scott School,
Farnborough Avenue,
Monks Hill, South Croydon ,
CR2 8HD

Contact: Rachel Cummings or
Jane Carey, Parenting and Family
Support worker

☎ **07704 061916**

Wednesdays 1.00-2.30pm

Kensington Avenue
Children's Centre,
Kensington Avenue,
Thornton Heath CR7 8BT

Contact: Jane Carey

☎ **07704 061916**

✉ jane.carey@croydon-jubilee.co.uk

Other Specialist Support

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

Educational Psychologists provide a range of advice and support to early years settings and to parents and carers across all special needs and disabilities.

Contact: Octavo Partnership,
4th Floor, Croydon Clocktower,
Katharine Street, Croydon, CR9 1ET

☎ **020 8241 5460**

✉ enquiries@octavopartnership.org

HEARING IMPAIRMENT: PRE-SCHOOL SERVICE

Teachers of the deaf offer visits to parents and carers at home and to staff in early years and pre-school settings in order to provide information and support in relation to all aspects of managing the needs of a child with hearing loss.

Contact: Hearing Impairment Team,
90 Central Parade (area office),
New Addington
Croydon, CR0 0JB

☎ **020 8760 5783**

PRIMARY HEARING CENTRE

The centre is based in Kingsley Primary School and caters for hearing impaired children of nursery and primary school age. Children attending the centre receive a level of small group and individual specialist teaching and communication support that is greater than would be possible in their local mainstream school.

Contact: Head of Primary Hearing Centre, Kingsley Primary School,
Thomson Crescent, Croydon, Surrey,
CR0 3JT

☎ **020 8689 9038**

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT: PRE-SCHOOL SERVICE

Specialist teachers work with children from birth who have a diagnosed visual impairment. Referrals are mainly received from ophthalmology clinics, hospitals and health professionals, though parents and teachers can also refer children to the service.

If there is a concern about a child's vision a medical opinion should be sought in the first instance through the family GP or local optometrist.

Contact: VI service manager,
90 Central Parade (area office),
New Addington, Croydon, CR0 0JB

☎ **020 8760 5784**

✉ linda.james@croydon.gov.uk

For more information see
Communication Support Service

🌐 www.croydon.gov.uk/education/special-educational-needs/css

National Early Support Service

Provides a range of useful information on different conditions and issues such as sleeping problems and rare conditions.

☎ **020 7843 6000**

🌐 www.ncb.org.uk