Information for parents / Carers

The Educational Psychology Service – Frequently Asked Questions

Why does my child need an educational psychologist (EP)?
When adults have continuing concerns about a child’s development, educational progress or happiness and the child is not responding to usual approaches, then Educational Psychologist’s advice may be requested.

What is an EP?
Educational psychologists (EP) are postgraduate, applied psychologists. Many have a teaching qualification and/or experience of working with children and young people in educational settings in addition to a Masters degree in Educational Psychology and/or a doctorate in Educational Psychology. We work through consultation and collaboration with significant adults to seek solutions to concerns and difficulties of children and young people aged 0 - 25 years.

What do EPs do?
EPs may do a range of things depending on the concerns raised. Activities may include some or all of the following:-

- Consulting with families, teachers and other professionals as relevant and with parents'/carers permission
- Assessing concerns
- Helping plan and evaluate agreed actions
- Therapeutic / educational interventions (individuals or groups)
- Training
- Research and project work
- Helping develop and review school policies
- Contributing to Statutory Assessment under the Children & Families Act (2014).

Who do EPs work with?
- Children and young people aged 0-25 years
- Families and carers
- Staff in pre-school, school and other educational settings
- Educational professional support staff, such as specialist teachers for hearing impairment
- Social workers
- Doctors and other health professionals
• Voluntary organisations and charities

**Will and EP be involved with my child without my knowledge?**
No. We will always seek written consent before we discuss or see any child. The school will ask you to sign our consent letter. We expect the school to inform you before and after any discussions with school staff.

**How will the EP work with my child?**
Following discussion, consultation and information gathering, further psychological investigation takes many forms and may include:

• Observation

• Questionnaires

• Individual interviews

• Assessment of attainments, learning styles, motivation, self-esteem, social skills

• Designing and monitoring plans

**Will I meet the EP?**
We may need to discuss concerns first with school staff. We will ask school to share plans with you. However, consulting with parents is an important part of our work and EPs may invite parents to discuss their child during the assessment process.

**Can I stay with my child during an individual assessment session?**
You can choose to stay with your child but most parents/carers prefer to allow their child to work with the EP without distraction.

**How will I know what the EP has done with my child?**
We will provide a summary of our involvement to the school to record what we did and what was agreed would be the next step. We will send a copy to you. The school will talk with you about the plans made.

**How can parents/carers help?**
You can help by:-

• Telling us what you think about your child’s difficulties

• Letting us know what your child is like at home and outside school

• Preparing any questions you would like to ask us

• Giving your consent to our involvement

• Helping to review programmes, plans etc.

• Contributing to the action plan. e.g. playing with your child, hearing your child read or practise spellings

• Rewarding targets achieved
Will the EP’s work go in my child’s records?
The school will keep a record of our work. We will keep confidential records about your child until he/she is 26 years old. You can ask to see your child’s EPS file at any time. We may also keep electronic (computer) records.

How do I contact an EP?
All schools in Luton have a link EP. Parents should contact the school’s Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) so that concerns can be discussed with the EP and if appropriate and agreed a request for EP involvement can be made.

How do I contact Luton Educational Psychology Service?
Educational psychology service
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The Moakes
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU3 3QB

Tel: 01582 548150