



Northamptonshire Local Offer

Quick Guide:

SENCOs in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

All early years providers are required to have arrangements in place that enable them to identify (and support) children with SEND. They're also required to promote equality of opportunity for the children in their care.

Early years providers are responsible for deciding which external SEND support is needed. They're also responsible for setting the priorities for the professional development of their staff.

The role of a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) is to advise on (and contribute towards) the SEND support provided by the setting. It's also the SENCO's responsibility to oversee the professional development of other staff (concerning all aspects of SEND).

- [See the DfE's SENCO job description here](#)

Maintained Nursery Schools

Nursery schools (and nursery units) that are run by the Local Authority must have a qualified teacher employed as a SENCO. This is to ensure the careful management of SEND support within the setting.

Since 2009, new SENCOs in maintained schools have been required to gain the [National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordination \(NASENCo\) Postgraduate Certificate](#) within three years of starting the job.

Private, Voluntary, and Independent (PVI) Providers

Other early years providers (such as pre-schools, playgroups, independent nurseries and childminders) can access the [Northamptonshire Inclusion Mentoring Programme \(NIMP\)](#).

Northamptonshire County Council's Early Education and Childcare team can support PVIs with their knowledge and understanding of SEND. To get in touch, email EEC@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk. Their webpages also offer a wealth of guidance for SENCOs:

- [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) in the EYFS](#)
- [Inclusion, Equality and Diversity in the EYFS](#)

Early Years Places Funded by the Local Authority

Early years settings that are funded by the Local Authority to deliver early education places (for 2, 3, and 4 year-olds) must abide by the [SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 Years](#). This means the setting must have a SEND policy that states which staff-member is responsible for their SEND and inclusion support. The SEND policy should be provided to the Local Authority.



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