Activity 1
Code of Practice Definitions

Resources needed
Discussion cards
Definition of SEN
Definitions of learning difficulty or disability and SEN in a child under compulsory school age
Code of Practice

Instructions
Group people in 2 or 3s
Give out the discussion cards & code of practice
If there is time, repeat this activity for the other key definitions, i.e. Learning difficulty or Disability

Discussion card:
Activity 1: Code of Practice Definitions
a. In groups of 2 or 3 discuss what you think constitutes a special educational need?
b. Now read the Code of Practice definition of SEN. What is the defining feature of what constitutes a special educational need or disability?
c. How does the definition of SEN and learning difficulty and/or disability differ for children under compulsory school age to that of a child who is at compulsory school age?

xiii. Definition of SEN: Page 15 code of practice
“A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special provision to be made for him or her”

Key phrase – special provision, additional to or different from

xiv. Learning difficulty or disability:
“A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:
• Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
• Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post 16 institutions”

Key phrase - When compared with others of the same age

xv. If under school age there is an element of estimating what the child’s needs are likely to be
For children aged 2 or more, special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children of the same age
For a child under 2 years, special educational provision means educational provision of any kind

xvi. Definition of SEN in a child under compulsory school age
“A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if he or she is likely to fall within the definition in paragraph xiv. (ie a learning difficulty or disability) above when they reach compulsory school age or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them” - Section 20 Children & Families Act 2014

• Key difference is that it is anticipatory because with very young children professionals and parents are trying to predict what the child’s need will be at 5.
• Special Educational provision means educational provision of any kind eg Home teaching, Day Nursery