

A Personalised Approach to Engagement Information for schools and settings

A new generation of children with complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Children and young people with complex special educational needs and disabilities have conditions that **co-exist**. These conditions **overlap and interlock creating a complex profile**. The co-occurring and compounding nature of complex learning difficulties **requires a personalised learning pathway** that recognises children and young people's unique and changing learning patterns. Children and young people with complex SEND present with a **range of issues and combination of layered needs** – e.g. mental health, relationships, behavioural, physical, medical, sensory, communication and cognitive.

They need informed specific support and strategies which may include trans-disciplinary input to engage effectively in the learning process and to participate actively in classroom activities and the wider community. Their attainments may be inconsistent, presenting an **atypical or uneven profile**. In the school setting, learners may be working at any educational level, including the National Curriculum and P scales. The Engagement Profile is applicable to learners in Early Years and post-school settings. (Amended from DfE 2012)

In order to recognise that a pupil has complex SEND, it may be helpful to focus on the following:

- engagement in learning is difficult
- the competing needs of the pupil are challenging to staff
- sufficient progress is not being made
- this is a long term difficulty
- a range of interventions have been tried with limited effectiveness and it is difficult to think of what to try next
- there is already involvement from outside specialists e.g. educational psychologists, SLD outreach Service

A profoundly personalised approach is needed

Useful Resources

Access the materials on <http://complexld.ssatrust.org.uk>.

This includes briefing sheets on a range of special needs and an Inquiry Framework to help staff focus their intervention.

Look at the Engagement Profile and Scale designed to help develop a personalised approach to engagement.

Using the Engagement Profile with Children with complex SEND -

'A powerful tool, incredibly useful'
'A child - centred observation'
'We enabled a pupil to shine'
'We have a new approach to seeking pupil voice'
'We are all going to change our practice' -quotes from teaching colleagues using the tool

For further information contact: Educational Psychology and Early Years Service

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