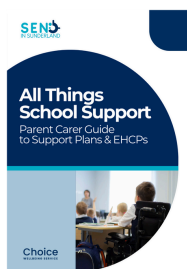
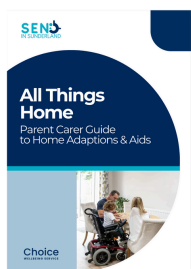
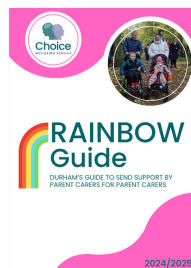
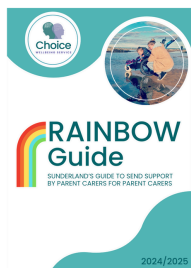


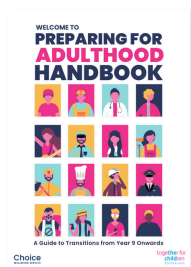
Here are just a few more guides we have available!



Guides on specific subjects



Rainbow Guides



Transitions Guides

Advocating for YOU and Your Child

Parent Carer Guide to Advocating

Your Child, Your Choice

Because one size doesn't fit all

Find our
website here:



Choice
WELLBEING SERVICE



To effectively advocate for a child with SEND, understand your child's rights, build a supportive network, engage with schools and practitioners, document everything, and consider getting involved in your local parent carer forum.

If you have questions that need to be answered in a legal manner reach out to your local SENDIASS or specialist solicitors like Irwin Mitchell for support.

If all of that sounds a bit too much, let's be honest... that's a bit much for anyone!

Then let's start here with our top tips:

Step 1: Understand your child's needs

There is no one who is more of an expert in your child, than you. So believe it! You are the expert by experience already and will continue to be that throughout their lives. Those that work with your child are considered practitioners, as they are practising a skillset, i.e. practicing medicine, etc.

Step 2: Create a support network

Use your support network to keep you going. Whether it's other parent carers in coffee mornings, local support groups, or social media groups online, reach out when you feel you are struggling to keep up. However – please remember, not all the information on social media is correct. Unless they have experience in whichever role in SEND, take it with a pinch of salt and seek further confirmation.

Step 3: Building Bridges with clear communication

We understand working with practitioners can be difficult, especially when nothing seems to be going right, but bridges are sometimes better built than burning. By maintaining good relationships with practitioners, communication, and problem solving, can be tackled head on and together.



Clearly articulate your child's needs and concerns to teachers, practitioners, and decision-makers. Try and maintain a positive, collaborative approach, even when disagreements come. Be honest and open to talking things through, and listening to their points of view too.

Step 4: Keep a timeline

Keeping a timeline from day 1 is a good diary or guide to have.

You are most likely going to be asked on multiple occasions about your child's birth etc. Keeping a timeline, plus any letters in one place can help you answer questions effectively. Keep copies of your child's medical reports, school assessments, and communication with practitioners. When making calls with practitioners, ask for an email address that you can send confirmation emails of discussions to. This will help you keep a 'paper trail' of communications in case you ever need to refer back to it. Regularly check their progress and make sure their needs are being met. Staying informed about new policies and resources will help you make good decisions about their education.

Step 5: Don't Give up

Advocating for a child with SEND can be challenging, so stay persistent and don't give up when faced with obstacles. Remember that the goal is to ensure your child receives the support they need to thrive. Acknowledge and celebrate your child's achievements and progress, but also your own.

[Read more on the Disabled Children's Partnership here:](#)

