The Role of the SENCO

A SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) plays a vital role in ensuring that children with special educational needs and disabilities, within a setting, receive the support they need and also ensure the detailed implementation of this support. All Early Years provisions, and schools, must have an identified SENCO in place, and in schools this must be a qualified teacher.

The roles and responsibilities of the SENCO:

- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy.
- Identifying children with special educational needs.
- Coordinating provision for children with SEN.
- Liaising with parents of children with SEN ensuring that they are closely involved and that their thoughts, feelings and wants to inform any decisions made.
- Liaising with key professionals and agencies such as educational phycologists
- Ensuring that the setting maintains up to date records/plans of all SEN children
- In a school setting the SENCO must work alongside the head teacher and governing body in the development and implementation of any SEN policies and provision.
- Ensuring there are no barriers to learning for SEN children
- Ensuring they keep up to date with current legislation and policies that will influence / affect their practice
- Ensure that regular reviews and/or meetings about SEN children take place
- Identifying, assessing, and planning for SEN children's needs and developing support programmes
- Ensure all practitioners in the setting are knowledgeable on SEN children in their care and that they are following any plans which are in place
- Supporting and advising colleagues on understanding their responsibilities for SEN children