Helpful Support & Guidance

Here are some useful organisations and resources for families and support services.

EA SEN

Information on the SEN framework, support services, statutory assessment, annual reviews, and parental guidance.

https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/special-educational-needs-sen

NI Direct SEN

Government information explaining SEN, school support and assessment processes.

https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/schools-learning-and-development/special-educational-needs

British Dyslexia Association

Support, information and practical strategies for families supporting children with dyslexia.

https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

Autism NI

Offers a helpline, support groups, family events, training courses and advice for parents and carers.

https://autismni.org

Middletown Centre for Autism

Provides specialist training, webinars, resources, assessments and support for families across Northern Ireland and Ireland.

https://www.middletownautism.com

EA AAIS

Offers specialist advice, guidance, training and resources for autistic children, families and schools.

https://www.eani.org.uk/pupil-support-services/autism-advisory-intervention-service-aais

ADD-NI

A charity supporting children, young people, adults and families affected by ADHD. Provides parent support groups, training and advice.

https://addni.org

Together we can support your child's journey.

Parenting NI

Offers parenting programmes, counselling, workshops and family support.

https://www.parentingni.org

Family Support NI

A searchable directory of services for children, young people and families across Northern Ireland.

https://www.familysupportni.gov.uk

Useful Helplines

Parentline NI – Confidential advice, guidance and support for parents.

Tel: 0808 8020 400

Autism NI Helpline – Advice and signposting for autistic people and their families.

Tel: 028 9040 1729

Key Messages for Parents

- ✓ Every child develops and learns at their own pace.
- ✓ Parents are partners at every stage.
- ✓ Support can be provided without a diagnosis.
- ✓ Additional support is based on a child's identified needs, not on having a diagnosis.
- ✓ Children can move forwards or backwards along the continuum depending on their needs.
- ✓ Support may be increased, reduced, or adapted as a child's needs change over time.
- ✓ Most children receiving SEN support do not require a statutory assessment.
- ✓ Early identification and early intervention help children achieve the best outcomes.

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