

Families InFocus(Essex) is a charity based in Chelmsford offering a range of *FREE* services to families in Essex. We aim to empower parents to do what is right for them and their children.

Although we receive some of our funding from statutory bodies, we are completely independent and can offer a confidential service.

We understand the distressing emotions, frustrations and challenges that parents and carers can feel when trying to obtain the best for their child from the educational system.

You may have just learned that:

- your child has special needs
- your child is to be assessed at school
- your child is to be “statemented”
- your child’s school wants to meet with you to review his/her progress.

You may

- feel alone and vulnerable when faced with meetings and dealings with your child’s school or with other professionals
- be unhappy with the decisions made about your child’s education.
- want to have somebody there to support YOU, to enable you to communicate the unique knowledge and information you have about your child to the professionals.

We can help you by

- talking through the issues with you
- completing forms and writing letters
- offering advice on the processes involved
- making an appeal against decisions you are unhappy with
- obtaining more specialist advice
- making somebody available to accompany you to meetings, reviews and tribunals (subject to us receiving enough notice).

If any of what you have read above applies to you or you need more information about how Families InFocus (Essex) can help you, please contact us and ask to speak to the Family Worker for your area.

In addition to our Independent Parental Supporter (IPS) service, we provide a range of *FREE* facilities including:

- an information service and helpline
- one to one advice and support from our family / key workers through home visits including completion of DLA forms and other related benefit forms
- mutual support through group activities, Saturday activity Club for all the family, drop ins, information / advice sessions at various venues around the county, speakers and learning opportunities, social events
- other opportunities including parents' Indulgence Days, play opportunities and Kidzspace, a special group for siblings (brothers and sisters aged 8-12 years).

"All parents of children with special educational needs (SEN) should be treated as partners. They should be supported so as to be able and empowered to:

- *recognise and fulfil their responsibilities as parents and play an active and valued role in their children's education*
- *have knowledge of their child's entitlement within the SEN framework*
- *make their views known about how their child is educated*
- *have access to information, advice and support during assessment and any other related decision-making processes about special educational provision."*
(2:2 SEN Code of Practice)

For further details contact

Families InFocus (Essex)
Lancaster House
140 Mildmay Road
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0EB
Tel: 01245 353575
Fax: 01245 351625
www.familiesinfocusessex.org.uk

Families InFocus (Essex)



Supporting families of children and young people with disabilities and special needs

INDEPENDENT PARENTAL SUPPORT

Are you the parent or carer of a child with special educational needs?

Would you like to speak to somebody who is independent of the education system about your child's needs?

Then contact us by
 telephone: 01245 353575
 or email:

familiesinfocus@btconnect.com

Families InFocus (Essex) is a registered charity no 1062311 and a limited company registered in England and Wales no 3287829