




A UK GUIDE

TO ACRONYMS

IN SEND





SEND stands for **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**. Children with SEND may need extra support or adaptations to help them learn, participate and thrive in school.

Understanding the common terms and acronyms used in SEND, can empower you as a parent or teacher to better support and advocate for children's needs.

Keep this guide handy as a quick reference whenever you encounter SEND-related acronyms. Use it to better understand reports, plans, or in discussions with professionals who support children with SEND.

Explore sendatheart.com for more carefully curated resources.

With much love...

Genevieve Joseph-Williams 



GLOSSARY OF TERMS UK

ACRONYM	MEANING	DESCRIPTION
ADD / ADHD	Attention Deficit Disorder / Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	Conditions affecting focus, impulse control, and sometimes hyperactivity.
ASC/ASD	Autism Spectrum Condition/Disorder	A developmental disorder that can affect social interaction, communication, and behaviour.
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	A Service that provides mental health assessments and treatment for children.
DLA	Disability Living Allowance	A government benefit for under 16s who have care/mobility needs due to a disability.
EHCP	Education, Health, and Care Plan	A legal document detailing the extra support a child with SEND needs to thrive in school.
EHCNA	Education, Health, and Care Needs Assessment	An assessment to determine if a child requires an EHCP for additional support.
EP	Educational Psychologist	A professional who assessed and supports the educational and psychological development of children and young people.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS UK



ACRONYM	MEANING	DESCRIPTION
IEP	Individualised Education Plan	A tailored plan outlining specific goals and support for a child's learning.
LA	Local Authority	The local government body responsible for providing services, including SEND support.
LSA	Learning Support Assistant	A staff member who provides direct support to students with SEND.
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulties	A term used to describe students who may need extra support to keep up with peers academically.
OT	Occupational Therapy	Therapy focusing on helping children develop everyday skills, often used in SEND for physical and sensory needs.
PSP	Pastoral Support Plan	A plan to support a student with behavioural/emotional difficulties at school.
SALT/SLT	Speech and Language Therapy	Therapy aimed at improving communication skills, which can include language and social interaction.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS UK



ACRONYM	MEANING	DESCRIPTION
SEN/ SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disability	A broad term describing any educational needs that require extra support beyond the typical school provisions.
SENCO / SENDCO	Special Educational Needs (& Disability) Coordinator	The school staff member responsible for coordinating SEND support for students.
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	A term used to describe needs related to emotional well-being and behaviour.
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulty	SpLD is an umbrella term that refers to a group of learning differences that affect particular areas of learning.
TA	Teaching Assistant	An additional support person in the classroom who may work with all students, including those with SEND.
TAC/TAF	Team around the Child/Family	A multi-agency meeting to coordinate support for a child with complex needs.
VI/HI	Visual/Hearing Impairment	Describes children who have vision/hearing challenges that require adaptations in learning materials or the environment.