

Parent's Guide to Checking an Educational psychologist report



Educational Psychologist (EP) reports can feel dense, technical, and full of jargon. But they are incredibly important because they directly inform **Section B and Section F** of an EHCP. A good report makes it easier to secure the right provision and placement for your child, while a vague or incomplete one can leave your child without the provision they need.

This guide walks you through how to review the EP report confidently and effectively, even if you are new to the process. You don't need to do everything at once. Many parents find it helpful to read the report once through, then come back to this guide and check each section step by step.

A strong EP report should clearly explain:

- **What your child's needs are** (this informs Section B)
- **What provision is required** to meet those needs (this informs Section F)
- **Why that provision is necessary** (this is evidence based)
- **How often, by whom, and in what setting** the provision should be delivered.

Review the description of Needs (Section B)

As a parent you know your child the best, you need to ask yourself:

- **Does this reflect my child accurately?**
- **Are all areas of need covered?**
(Cognition and learning)
(Communication and interaction)
(Social, emotional and mental health)
(Sensory and physical)
- **Are these needs described specifically, not vaguely?**

For example:

"Struggles with attention" – is written vaguely.

"Sustains attention for 2-3 minutes without adult support" – this describes the need specifically.

Review Section F, looking for Clear, Specific, Quantified Recommendations

This is the most important part of the report, as this makes up Section F in an EHCP.

Provision must be:

- **Specific** ('1:1', 'small group 1:2' etc, 'daily')
- **Quantified** ('45 minutes', 4 sessions per week')

- **Delivered by a named professional** (*'Delivered by a Speech and Language Therapist', 'SENCO', 'TA with training in Autism'*)
- **Directly linked to the needs that have been identified.**

You need to look out for phrases such as:

'Access too' 'Opportunities for' 'Regular support'
 'As required' 'Should benefit from'

These are not legally enforceable.

Check the outcomes are SMART:

Outcomes should be:

- **Specific**
- **Measurable**
- **Achievable**
- **Relevant**
- **Time-bound**

For example:

'Improve reading' – this outcome is not SMART.

'Increase reading accuracy from 60% to 80% on age-appropriate texts by July 2026' – this outcome is SMART.

If there are outcomes that are missing or are vague, the report is incomplete.

Look for comments on the type of Provision or Placement needed

The EP should comment on:

- **Class size**
- **Specialist teaching**
- **Level of structure**
- **Sensory environment**
- **Whether mainstream, specialist, or hybrid provision is appropriate**

If the EP avoids commenting on placement entirely, you as a parent can request clarification on this.

Make notes on anything that feels inaccurate or missing

As a parent your lived experience is valid evidence, it important to ask yourself:

- Does this reflect my child on a typical day?
- Has anything been misunderstood?
- Are there needs the EP hasn't explored?

- Are there recommendations missing that you know your child requires?

You as the parent are able to request corrections to factual inaccuracies.

Know your rights as a parent:

Under the Children and Families Act 2014:

- **You can challenge inaccuracies in the EP report**
- **You can request further assessment if the EP report is inadequate**
- **Your parental evidence must be considered equally**
- **The LA must base the EHCP on up-to-date, thorough, and accurate assessments.**

Ideally you will need to provide evidence directly to the LA, to support this.