

THE NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL READINESS PASSPORT

COMPLETING THE SEND SUPPORT CHECKER

What is the SEND Checker?

The 'Steps to School Readiness Checker', within The Northumberland School Readiness Passport, should be completed for all children from the age of 2 up until the Reception year. For some children however, the statements within the 'Steps to School Readiness Checker' may not be appropriate for their specific needs.

The children within this group are likely to have been identified as needing SEND Support as they require something which is additional to, and/or different from that of their peers. This means the graduated approach has been initiated.

How do I activate it?

If a child has been identified as needing SEND Support, 'SEND Support' should be selected from the 'SEN Provision' option under the 'Child Details' section of The Passport.

SEND Support should only be selected with the agreement of the child's parents/carers and other professional who may be involved.

It is expected that other interventions will have been put into place before it is agreed that the child needs to be assessed against the SEND Checker. This may include an Early Help Assessment or the graduated approach being initiated.

How does it work?

Once 'SEND Support' is recorded, the 'SEND Support Checker' will be generated. The statements within this checker come from 'The Early Years Developmental Journal', (DFE, 2012). Additional questions will also appear under the 'All About Me' section. Here, practitioners can record the child's strengths, areas where they need additional support and what the setting are doing for the child that is over and above their quality first teaching.

The checker is grouped by the 4 broad areas of SEND: social emotional and mental health, communication and interaction, cognition and learning and sensory and/or physical needs. Each area contains 14 steps, with up to 10 statements under each. As children with special educational needs and/or disability require an assessment which recognises the small steps of progress made to achieving a target, assessments will be made to record whether a child is 'emerging', 'developing' or 'secure' within each step. Once a child is recorded as 'developing' within a step, the next step will automatically open. This can then be selected on the toolbar under the title for the area of SEND (see image 1.0).

THE NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL READINESS PASSPORT

COMPLETING THE SEND SUPPORT CHECKER

What about children with a 'spiky' profile?

The checker allows practitioners to record every child's unique profile. For example, professionals might agree that a child may not achieve most or all of the statements in a specific step, e.g. due to medical needs, but may have some of the statements within the following step. In this example practitioners can choose to 'skip this step'. The next set of statements will then be opened and can be accessed by selecting the step at the top on the toolbar (see image 1.1). This should only be selected when it is agreed by all professionals involved with the child and the child's parents/carers.

How to record next steps?

The statements within each step are progressive. This will help practitioners to identify next steps for the child, which can then be recorded on their action review record and within The Passport. When you submit the checker you will be asked to record next steps. This will automatically be updated on the child's report (see image 1.2).

When the SEND Support Checker is submitted, the step the child is within is recorded on the child's report and plotted onto the progress graph (see image 1.2). This will help to show the child's progress over time. The checker can be re-opened within 2 weeks of submission. After 2 weeks, you can complete a new assessment, which will be plotted on the progress graph once submitted. **It is recommended that the checker is completed at the time the action review record is reviewed.**

Once the checker is submitted you can record which actions you have in place to support the child to achieve their next steps by clicking on the 'Actions in Place' tab.

Do I need to use the SEND Checker?

If you are applying for the Early Years Short Term Additional Resource (EYSTAR funding) or a Consideration for Statutory Assessment (COSA) it is expected by the Local Authority that the SEND Checker has been completed and shared as part of your application.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL READINESS PASSPORT

COMPLETING THE SEND SUPPORT CHECKER

Image 1.0

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Stage 3 (Developing)

1 2 **3** 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

- Shows pleasure at being tickled and other physical games
- Laughs and gurgles
- Likes cuddles and being held – for example, calms, snuggles in, smiles, gazes at carer's face or strokes carer's skin
- Shows pleasure at return of familiar carer
- Shows emotional responses to other people's emotions – for example, smiles when smiled at and becomes distressed if hears another child crying

Emerging Developing Secure Click to skip this step

Image 1.1

Communication & Interaction Stage 2 (Emerging)

1 2 **3** 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

- Makes sounds in response when you talk.
- Turns quickly to your voice across the room.
- Shows excitement at approaching voices, footsteps or other familiar sounds.
- Reacts by smiling, looking and moving when you interact.

Emerging Developing Secure Click to skip this step

THE NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL READINESS PASSPORT

COMPLETING THE SEND SUPPORT CHECKER

Image 1.2

SEND Progress History Graph

Next Steps

The following section details the next steps that are planned for Norman and a graph showing his progress over the last assessments.

To look towards an adult when they speak and gently touch Norman on the shoulder.

To turn towards some unfamiliar sounds when playing games with his Key Person in a 1:1 ratio.

To begin to take turns in communications when an adult mirrors the sounds Norman makes.

