

# Definitions of learning disability learning difficulty / SEN

Special  
educational  
needs (SEN)

**1,276,215** children and young people (CYP) with specific learning difficulties including dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, which do not have a significant general impairment of intelligence, and learning disability. People will also use 'learning difficulties' to indicate a general impairment of the intelligence.

Learning  
disability

**Over 400k** CYP with a reduced intellectual ability leading to: difficulty understanding new / complex information; learning skills; and coping with everyday activities. An impairment that started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development.  
A child has a learning difficulty or disability if they have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or has a disability which prevents / hinders them from making use of facilities provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or post-16 institutions (which often use the term learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD)).

EHC  
plans

**319,819** CYP who have special educational needs, for whom the local authority considers it is necessary to have provision made in accordance with an EHC plan, or Statement.

**204** children accommodated in secure children's homes (2018 figure)

Residential  
school or  
college

**4,232** CYP with statements / EHC plans in residential special schools or colleges

Secure  
homes    Inpatients

**240 -65** CYP with learning disability, autism or both who are inpatients; 69% ASC and no learning disability

**41,547** CYP with learning disabilities estimated to have behaviours that challenge (Sept 2014 Emerson et al)