



**Bromley Parent Voice**

working in partnership to give parents and carers a voice



# Thinking about Outcomes

This leaflet explains what an outcome is and sets out how a Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) can be developed using person centred approaches to achieve better outcomes for children and young people with a special educational need or disability and their families.

# What is the Vision?



“Our vision for children and young people with special needs is the same as for all children and young people – that they achieve well in early years, at school and in college; lead happy and fulfilled lives; and have choice and control.”

*Department for Education*

The expectation set out in the Children & Families Act 2014 is that local authorities and educational settings place parents and young people at the heart of the processes and decisions.

“Focus on the outcomes that children and young people and their families want to achieve, so that all decisions are informed by these aspirations.”

*[Draft Code of Practice Chapter 1, [1.6]]*

It is about starting with what is important to a child, young person and their family and ensuring that they have as much choice and control over their life and support as possible.



# What is an Outcome?

An outcome can be **defined** as the **benefit** or difference made to a child or young person as a result of an intervention.

It is not the intervention or the solution.

An outcome is a personal goal not necessarily a service led goal or target.

It should be **measurable** and **specific**.

Outcome-focused planning helps to find out what is important to the child, young person and their family so that all available resources can be used to help achieve their aspirations.

Being clear about the outcomes enables everyone to work together and enables creativity in the use of funding and how children and young people get the support that they need.

The EHC process and plan provides an opportunity for children, young people and parent carers to be at the centre of the decision making process.

The timescale set for the outcome may depend upon the age of the child or young person.

Outcomes can be long term, medium term or short term.

Here are some simple questions to help you think about outcomes.

## What would you like your child to be able to do?

- Why would you like them to be able to do that?
- What needs to be in place to achieve this?
- Does he/she need to develop new skills to make this happen?
- Who can help or support him/her to achieve this?

## What makes a good outcome?

- Does it keep something that is working?
- Does it change something that is not working?
- Does it move towards a future you want?



## Important to or Important for?

- What is important to your son or daughter?  
  
E.g. to be understood, to be included, to have their views listened to, swimming, music.
- What is important for your son or daughter? E.g. to be kept safe and healthy

It is important when you are thinking about outcomes for your son or daughter to have a balance between what is important to and important for them.

Here are some examples of outcomes set out in EHC Plans.

**Service:  
5 hours speech & language  
therapy every week.**

What would that:

Give you? Time with a speech therapist

Do for you? Helps your child to be more easily understood

Makes possible for you? Friendships, social activities, confidence

**This all works towards the parent/child desired outcome** to be understood by family and friends so that the child can play with them everyday.

or

## Long term outcome:

To be friends with more people

## Medium term outcome:

To attend a social skills group and create a circle of friends

## Short term actions:

To develop a communication passport so that everyone knows how the child/young person communicates and how to communicate with them.

Further information on outcomes and person-centred approaches can be found at:

[www.sendpathfinder.co.uk](http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk)

[www.in-control.org.uk](http://www.in-control.org.uk)

[www.personalisingeducation.org](http://www.personalisingeducation.org)

[www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk](http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk)

[www.ncb.org.uk/earllysupport](http://www.ncb.org.uk/earllysupport)

