Have you ever attended a meeting with a special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) or an educational psychologist (EP) to talk about your child’s special educational needs & / or disabilities (SEND) and not understood what was going on because everyone was using abbreviations? The SEN process can be full of abbreviations and acronyms which can make it difficult to understand. To help, we've compiled a list of some of the most common SEN abbreviations.

**ADD** - Attention deficit disorder  
**ADHD** - Attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder  
**ALP** – Alternative learning provision  
**APD**- Auditory processing disorder  
**APDR** - Assessment, plan, do, review  
**AR** - Annual review  
**AS** - Asperger syndrome  
**ASC** - Autistic spectrum condition  
**ASD** - Autistic spectrum disorder  
**BESD** - Behavioural, emotional and/or social difficulties  
**CAF** - Common assessment framework  
**CAMHS** - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service   
**CBT** – Cognitive behavioural therapy  
**CDC** - Child development centre  
**CIN** - Child in need  
**CLA** - Child looked after  
**CME** – Child missing education  
**CoP**- Code of practice  
**CP** - Child protection  
**CPM** - Costed provision map  
**CYP** - Children and young people  
**DD** - Disability discrimination  
**DfE** - The Department of Education  
**DSR** – Dynamic support register  
**EAL** - English as an additional language  
**EHE** – Elective home education  
**EOTAS** – Educated other than at school  
**EYFS**- Early years foundation stage  
**EHC** - Education, health and care  
**EHCNA** - Education, health and care needs assessment  
**EHCP -**Education, health and care plan  
**EP** - Educational psychologist  
**EPS** - Educational Psychology Service   
**EWO -** Education welfare officer  
**FAS** - Foetal alcohol syndrome  
**FE** - Further education  
**FSM** - Free school meals  
**GSP** - Graduated support plan  
**HE** - Higher education  
**HV**- Health visitor  
**HI** - Hearing impairment  
**HLTA** - Higher level teaching assistant  
**ICB** – Integrated Care Board  
**ICP** – Integrated Care Partnership  
**KS**- Key stage **LA** - Local authority  
**LEA** - Local educational authority  
**LAC** - Looked-after child  
**LO** - Local offer  
**LSA** - Learning support assistant  
**MDT** – Multi-disciplinary team  
**MH** – Mental health  
**MLD** - Moderate learning difficulties  
**ND** - Neurodiversity  
**OAP** –ordinary available provision  
**OCD** - Obsessive compulsory disorder  
**ODD** - Oppositional defiant disorder  
**OT**- Occupational therapy / occupational therapist  
**PB** – Personal budget  
**PD** - Physical disability  
**PDA** - Pathological demand avoidance  
**PFA** - Preparing for adulthood  
**PMLD** - Profound and multiple learning difficulties  
**PP** - Pupil Premium  
**PRU**- Pupil referral unit   
**SALT** - Speech and language therapy  
**SC** - Social care  
**SEMH** – Social emotional and mental health  
**SEN**- Special educational needs  
**SEND** - Special educational needs and / or disability  
**SENDIST -**Special educational needs and disability tribunal   
**SENCO -**Special educational needs co-ordinator   
**SI** - Sensory impairment  
**SLCN** - Speech language and communication needs  
**SLD** - Severe learning difficulties  
**SpLD** - Specific learning difficulties  
**SLT** - Speech and language therapy / therapist  
**SSW** - Senior social worker  
**SW** - Social worker  
**TAC** - Team Around the Child  
**TAF** - Team Around the Family  
**VI** - Visual impairment (loss of sight)  
**YP** - Young people / young person