



Research Findings
October 2023

Dingley's Promise

Transforming the Early Years for children with SEND

Our research conducted in October 2023 had 577 respondents. It revealed the following about the status of early years provision:

Early Years Settings:

- 95% have seen a rise in the number of children with SEND (79% said it was a significant rise).
- One year ago 27% of settings did not have any more spaces for children with SEND. Once the new entitlements come in this will rise to 57%.
- 86% have funded SEND support themselves – 62% on a regular basis.
- 77% say SEND inclusion training is a priority for them.
- Only 53% of them reported their EYPs had accessed SEND and inclusion training.
- 80% feel the ratio changes will make it harder to support children with SEND.

Local Authorities:

- Only 15% of local authorities believe they have sufficient provision for children with SEND.
- 78% think the new entitlements will make sufficiency worse for children with SEND.
- 98% reported that EHCP requests in the early years are rising.

Parents:

- One in five parents reported being turned away by a setting.
- 49% don't trust that their local authority is doing what is best for their child.