

## Assessment and statementing

Remember to keep a file with all the details of your child's medical history, education reports and other important documents. You may need this information at some time and it should be kept in a safe place.

### Getting extra help

The school can arrange additional support for your child through '[School Action](#)' or '[School Action Plus](#)'. Children who stammer are only likely to need further support than this if there is another more complex need present for which statutory assessment and specialist support is required. For example, a third of children with Down's syndrome are likely to stammer. **The majority of children who stammer are unlikely to go on to be statutorily assessed.**

If you are not happy that your school is meeting your child's [special educational needs](#) first talk to your child's teacher with whom you should have built up a good relationship. If you feel then that more specialist help is needed ask to speak to the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) in the school. There can be misunderstandings so it is important you co-operate as much as you can with your child's school and involve the SENCO and even the Headteacher if you consider that would be helpful. After this discussion you may accept that adequate support is in place. However, if you anticipate that further support is likely to be needed then [Get more advice on the options available](#).

If the school wants to ask the local authority to carry out an assessment, they should always talk to you first. You may approach the local authority yourself to request one and should then talk to your child's teacher and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). You may decide that the process would be less demanding for you if you and the staff agreed that the application should be made by the school.

This assessment may conclude that your child needs the extra support that a [statement of special educational needs](#) should give.