Deaf friendly nurseries

Is your nursery setting deaf friendly?

What can nurseries do to ensure the deaf baby/toddler is getting the best exposure to communication/language whilst they attend?



Why is hearing and listening so critical?

- Consistent listening experiences in early infancy (birth through age 3) are critical for the development of speech and language in young children and sets the foundation of a strong spoken language/sign language base that is essential for literacy.

- The key to children's communication development depends on intensive language exposure as early as possible throughout all of their daily activities (this could be both spoken or sign language)

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Finding and choosing early years education or childcare that works for you, and your family is worth investing time in. As a parent of a deaf child, there are some extra things to think about to make the right decision for your child. (taken from NDCS website)



- Is the childcare environment deaf-friendly, welcoming and inclusive?
- Will they be able to help develop your child's language and communication skills?
- Is there a good listening environment with as little background noise as possible? Would your child be able to listen, learn and socialise?
- Are they happy to learn skills to support your child? Will they learn how to look after your child's hearing technology? Are they open to alternative communication methods like sign language?

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Further questions to think about:



- Are they willing to build an ongoing relationship with you to support your child's development?
- Will they be able to support your child's emotional wellbeing and help them to make friends?
- Do they have experience working with deaf children or children with hearing loss?
- Will there be any other deaf children, or will your child be the only deaf child? Do you want them to be around other deaf children?

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Creating a pupil profile/passport

- We can help you to create a profile that will be helpful to share with the nursery setting





- **Visual Aids**







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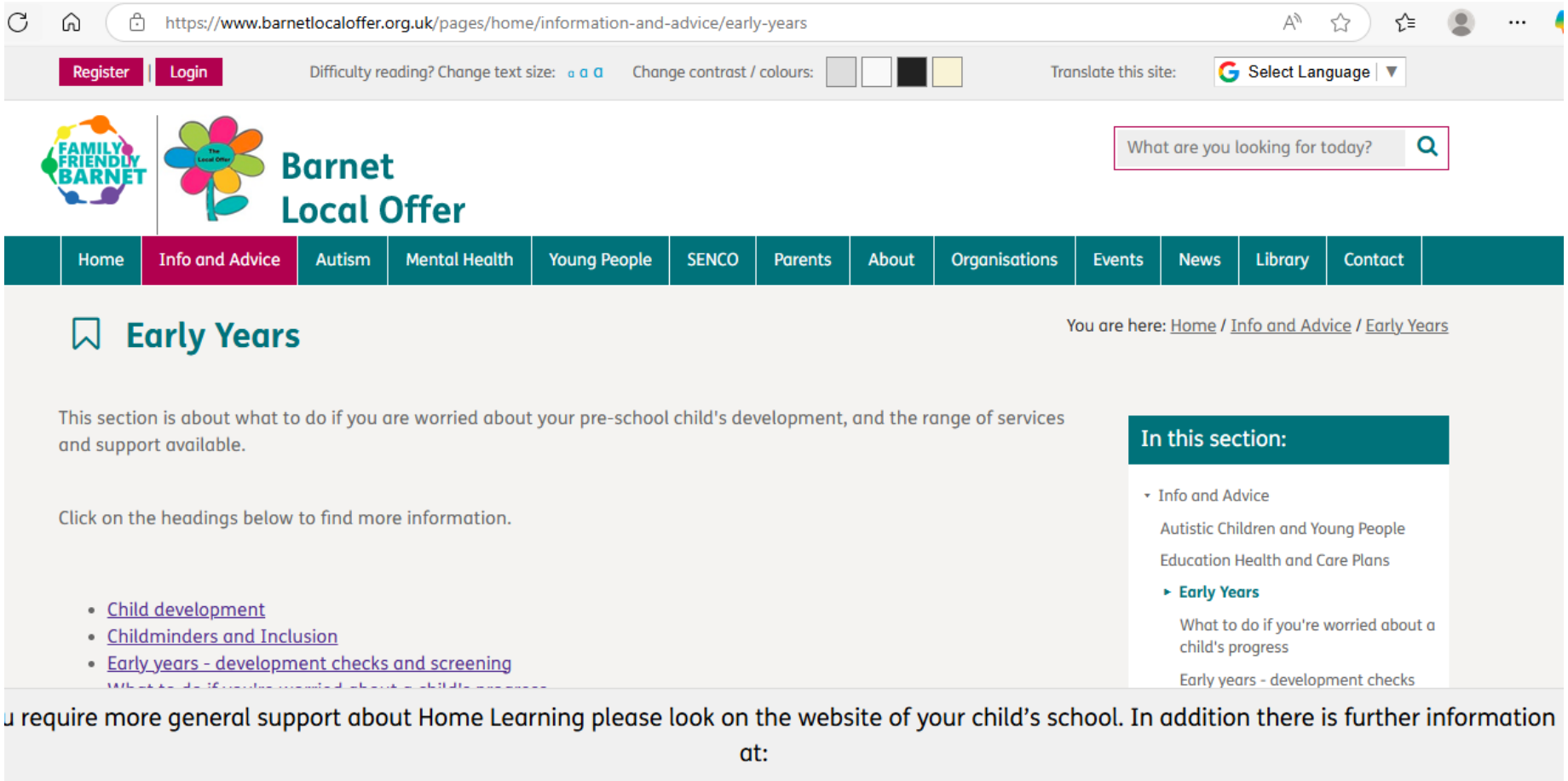
Barnet local offer page : how can it help you



Additional information for you:

Support from an early years provider

Most providers caring for children in the early years must register with Ofsted. This means they must follow the relevant health and safety and disability discrimination laws. They must also meet the statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) framework.

Early years education providers should:

- find out about your child and your family. This should include what works best for you and your child, such as how your child prefers to communicate
- find out how to support and optimise your child's development and learning so they can thrive
- make the setting as accessible as possible so that your child is fully included in all activities and experiences, from story time to snack time
- create and foster a positive deaf identity
- support your child to make meaningful relationships with other children and adults

Under the EYFS framework, professionals working with young children should be observant. They should be alert to emerging difficulties and respond early to concerns. Read more about the EYFS framework.

- Providers should understand that you know your child best. They should listen when you express concerns about your child's development. Providers should also listen to, and address, any concerns raised by children themselves.