



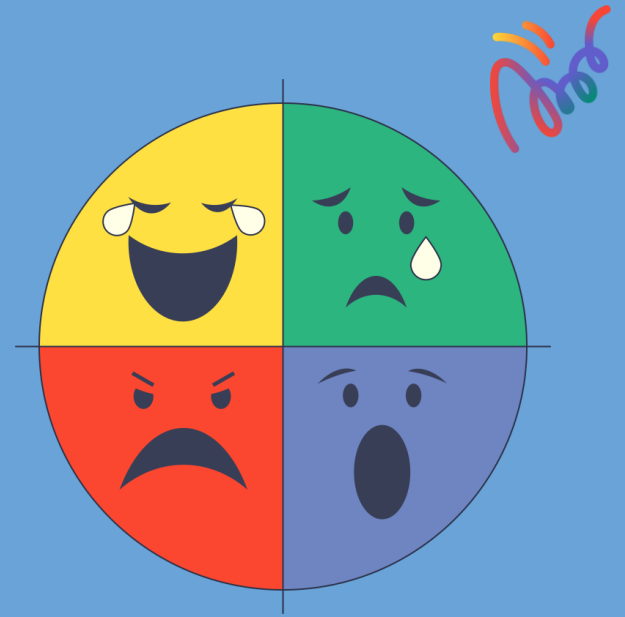
SO YOUR CHILD HAS SPECIAL NEEDS...

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

01 Breathe and Feel Your Emotions

You are first and foremost a human being with emotions and feelings. Being a parent of any child brings with it feelings of joy, anger, happiness, frustration, love, anxiety and more.

Being a parent of a child with SEND can also bring feelings of confusion, anger, frustration and grief, alongside the love and joy. Feel and accept all the feelings.



02 Knowledge is Power

You will know your child better than anyone. Learn about their strengths and vulnerabilities. What are their unique features? What works for your child? What do they like/dislike? How do they communicate? What makes them smile?

If they have a diagnosed condition, learn what you can about it. Knowledge can help to reduce anxieties and fears.



03 Get Your Voice Heard

Systems are not always designed to be user friendly. You will become an advocate for both you and your child. Professionals know their stuff, but so do you. You know your child better than anyone.

If something doesn't feel right, ask questions. If you want answers and information, ask questions. It is your right.



04 Seek Support - You Are Not

Alone
Having a child who is 'different' or neurodiverse can be challenging and at times, lonely. You don't need to face everything on your own, or within your family unit. Your child may have to attend a specialist setting and not their local school, which can add to this isolation. There are parent groups out there, clubs, activities. You may also want the support of a counsellor to help you with challenges.

More information for local services on the next page.



Wigan Borough

Wigan Local Offer - <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disability/Local-Offer/index.aspx>

Wigan Special Educational Needs and Disability Information and Advice Support Service (SENDIASS). <https://wigansendiass.co.uk/> (01942 233323)

Wigan Parent/Carer Forum - <https://www.wiganpcf.org.uk/>

Wigan
Council



Salford Borough

Salford Local Offer - <https://directory.salford.gov.uk/kb5/salford/directory/site.page?id=XPWxxuwiPME>

Salford SIASS - Email: SIASS@salford.gov.uk or call 0161 778 0343

SEN Team to help with assessment and EHCPs - Email: senteam@salford.gov.uk or call 0161 7780410

Salford City Council



Bolton Borough

Bolton Local Offer - <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer/>

Bolton Start Well - <https://www.boltonstartwell.org.uk/resources/send-inclusion>

Short Breaks and Activities - <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer/short-breaks-activities-disabled-children>

Sensory Support Service - <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer/homepage/63/sensory-support-service>

Bolton
Council



other

H.O.P.E. Sensory & Craft Sessions (Leigh): Located nearby at the Higher Fold Community Centre (Stirling Close, WN7 2UB), this group hosts monthly Saturday sessions offering soft play, sensory rooms, and arts/crafts for children and young adults with autism and their families.

My:ND Space CIC (Leigh): Based on Chapel Street, this neurodiversity group regularly runs sensory-friendly, small-group sessions and creative workshops (like furniture upcycling and mosaic decorating) for neurodivergent teens and youths.



www.dragonflycounsellingservice.co.uk
dragonflycounselling2024@gmail.com
07564 693803
21 Stanley Street, Tyldesley, M29 8AE

