

The PPT and special education assistance

If your child is faced with special challenges, he or she may have the right to special education assistance. Your child may have the right to such help from birth, regardless of whether or not he or she attends kindergarten.

Special education assistance can, for example, be given in the form of physical training, stimulation of the child or advice for kindergarten staff. As a parent you always have the right to receive offers of advice. The help provided must be adapted to your child's needs.

If you, or others who know your child, are concerned about his or her development, the municipality and the PPT must assess and provide advice on what your child needs.

The PPT is a public service that makes an expert assessment (in Norwegian: sakkyndig vurdering), in the form of a document that shows whether the child needs special education assistance. The municipality must adopt an individual decision (in Norwegian: enkeltvedtak) about whether the child has the right to special education assistance or not, and what the help should be. You can always appeal against the decision.

What is the PPT?

PPT gives advice to kindergartens and schools on adaptations for children, young people and adults with special needs. The PPT may engage in interdisciplinary collaboration at the local level, for example with the health service or the Norwegian Child Welfare Services (in Norwegian: barneverntjenesten), and at national level, for example with the national service for special needs education (in Norwegian: Statped). The PPT is bound by confidentiality.

What can you expect from the municipality?

The municipality must

- ensure that the child's best interests are safeguarded
- involve and consult you and your child prior to taking decisions that affect your child
- conduct interviews with the child and the parents and carry out necessary assessments of the child
- request that the PPT provides an expert assessment if you request this, and if the municipality or the kindergarten is of the opinion that the child is in need of special education assistance

- adopt an individual decision (in Norwegian: enkeltvedtak) that states whether the child has the right to special education assistance or not, and what the help should be
- provide the child with special education assistance as described in the individual decision
- offer you parent counselling
- ensure that an annual report is prepared on the special education assistance and your child's progress and development

What can you do?

As a parent, you

- can demand that the municipality looks into whether your child is in need of special education assistance
- can discuss your concern with the PPT and the kindergarten prior to referral
- must be involved and give your consent before the municipality requests that the PPT assesses your child
- must be involved and give your consent before the municipality decides your child is to receive special education assistance
- must receive an annual written report on the special education assistance your child is receiving and an assessment of the progress and development of your child
- can lodge an appeal if your child is not provided with special education assistance
- can appeal the content, implementation or organisation of the special education assistance