



lightyear  
foundation

## SEN Acronyms List

AAC – Augmentative and Alternative Communication

AD (or ABD) – Attachment Disorder

ADD – Attention Deficit Disorder

ADHD – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

ALN – Additional Learning Needs

APD – Auditory Processing Disorder

AS – Asperger’s Syndrome

ASC – Autistic Spectrum Condition

ASD – Autistic Spectrum Disorder

AT – Assistive Technology

BESF – Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties

CD – Communication Disorder

CP – Cerebral Palsy

CF – Cystic Fibrosis

CSHCN – Children with Special Health Care Needs

DD – Developmental Delay

DDA – Disability Discrimination Act

DS – Down Syndrome

GDD – Global Developmental Delay

GLD – Global Learning Delay

HH – Hard of Hearing

HI – Hearing Impairment

LD – Learning Difficulties

MD – Muscular Dystrophy

MLD – Moderate Learning Difficulties

MS – Multiple Sclerosis

NVLD – Non-Verbal Learning Disability

OCD – Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

ODD – Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Pecs (or PECS) – Picture Exchange Communication System

PDA – Pathological Demand Avoidance

PDD – Pervasive Developmental Disorder

PMLD – Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties

RAD – Reactive Attachment Disorder

SEN – Special Educational Needs

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

SEMH – Social, Emotional and Mental Health

SI – Sensory Impaired

SLD – Severe Learning Difficulty

SpLD – Specific Learning Difficulty

SWAN – Syndrome without a name

TBI – Traumatic Brain Injury

VI – Visual Impairment

**Some useful definitions can be found:**

<https://livingwithdisability.info/special-educational-needs-abbreviations-glossary/>

<https://www.senexpertsolicitors.co.uk/site/services/services-for-parents/educational-needs-acronyms/#PDA>