ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND COMMON TERMS

An alphabetical list of acronyms/abbreviations for many of the education, disability, benefits, assessment, legal, medical conditions, behavioural and other terms that you might come across on your journey (with a few added notes and a few explanations).

Many people never come across most of them or need to know them, so please don’t be put off by the size of the list! It is just for reference.

Be careful not to confuse terms with the same acronym (marked with the same number of asterisks). They can have very different meanings.

ABA - Applied Behavioural Analysis
ADD - Attention Deficit Disorder - attention problems without hyperactive behaviour
ADHD - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder - attention problems with hyperactivity
ADOS - Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule
ALN - Additional Learning Needs
AN - Additional Needs
APD - Auditory Processing Disorder (not difficulties or deficits) - a diagnosis of auditory processing difficulties is NOT a full diagnosis of APD
AR - Annual Review
ARP - Additional Resource(d) Provision
ASD - Autism Spectrum Condition
ASD - Autism Spectrum Disorder
BAS - British Ability Scales - an assessment that may be used
BJHMS - Benign Joint Hypermobility Syndrome - also known as HMS (same condition with no pain, terms used interchangeably)
BSL – British Sign Language
BSS - Behaviour Support Service
CAF - Common Assessment Framework
CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CARS - Childhood Autism Rating Scale
CCG - Clinical Commissioning Groups
CELF - Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals
CF - Cystic Fibrosis
CFA - Children and Families Act 2014
CH - Common Hypermobility - also known as EDS - Ehler Danlos Syndrome
CHAT - Comprehensive Health Assessment Tool
CI - Communication and Interaction
CL - Cognition and learning
CLDD - Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
Conners CBRS - Conners Comprehensive Behaviour Rating Scales
CoP - Code of Practice – same as SENDCoP
* CP - Cerebral Palsy
* CP - Child Protection
CPR - Child Protection Register
DCD/ Developmental Co-ordination Disorder - used to be called Dyspraxia
DD - Disability Discrimination
DDA - Disability Discrimination Act - now replaced by the Equalities Act 2011
DfE - Department for Education
DH - Department of Health
DLA - Disability Living Allowance
DSA - Disabled Student's Allowance
DWP - Department for Work and Pensions
** EA - Education Act 1996
** EA - Equalities Act 2011
EBD - Emotional, Social and Behavioural Difficulties
EDS - Ehler Danlos Syndrome-also known as CH - Common Hypermobility
EFA - Education Funding Agency
EHCP/EHC Plan - Education, Health and Care plan - not just for education needs
EHE - Elective Home Education
ELSA - Emotional Literacy Support Assistant
EP/Ed Psych - Educational Psychologist
EPS - Educational Psychology Service
ESA - Employment and Support Allowance
ESBD - Emotional, Social and Behavioural Difficulties
ESCO - Early Support Care Co-ordination
ESP - Early Support Programme
ESW - Educational Social Worker
EWO - Education Welfare Officer
EYDCP - Early Years Development and Childcare Plan
EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage
FE - Further Education
FM system - a personal assistive listening device for APD (not to be confused with a hearing aid for hearing loss, but this can be used with hearing aids where a person has both). The teacher wears microphone, the child wears headset/earpieces. Does not directly improve processing, just clarity of speech
FTT - First Tier Tribunal
G&T - Gifted and talented, also known as 2E or Twice Exceptional – a person who is gifted and also has additional needs/disabilities/learning difficulties
GDD - Global Development Delay
GMS - Grant Maintained School
GOSH - Great Ormond Street Hospital - centre of excellence for APD testing
*** HE - Home Education
*** HE - Higher Education
HI - Hearing Impairment
HMS - Hypermobility syndrome - also known as BJHMS (same condition, no pain, terms used interchangeably)
IAC - Infant Assessment Class
IAP - Individual Action Plan
IASS - Information, Advice and Support Service – same function as the Parent Partnership (either term may be used, depending on where you live)
IBP - Individual Behaviour Plan
ICP - Individual Care Plan
IEP - Individual Education Plan
IN - Inclusion Officer
IPP - Individual Pupil Profile
IPS - Independent Parental Supporter
IS - Independent Supporter
Irlen Syndrome/Irlen-Meares Syndrome - light sensitivity/sensitivity to visual glare, causing reading difficulties, headaches etc. - also known as Scotopic Sensitivity (just one of the types of VPD)
JHS - Joint Hypermobility Syndrome - (similar condition to HMS and BHMS, but with pain)
JR - Judicial Review
LA - Local Authority/LEA Local Education Authority
LA - Learning Assistant
LAC – Looked After Children – children in Local Authority care
LGO - Local Government Ombudsman
Local Offer - a free publication prepared, updated and reviewed by the local authority, detailing the support that it expects to be available for children with special educational needs and disabilities, health, education and social care in its area.
LSA - Learning Support Assistant
LSS - Learning Support Service
MAKATON – a system of signs and symbols to help people communicate.
MDT - Multi-Disciplinary Team
MH - Mental Health
MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulties
MN - Medical Needs
MSI - Multi-Sensory Impairment
NC - National Curriculum
NQT - Newly Qualified Teacher
NTA - Non-Teaching Assistant
OCD - Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
ODD - Oppositional Defiant Disorder
OIA - Office of the Independent Adjudicator
One Page Profile - tells teachers, social workers, health care workers and other professionals about what your child likes and dislikes, what help they need and what is important to them - ask to see it and have input regarding their needs
OT - Occupational Therapist/Occupational Therapy
Paed - Paediatrician
PD - Physical Disability
PDA - Pathological Demand Avoidance (within ASD spectrum)
PDD - Pervasive Developmental Disorder
PECS - Picture Exchange Communication System - developed for use with young children with autism and other social-communication deficits
PEP - Personal Education Plan
PIP - Personal Independence Payment
PIVATS or P scales - Performance Indicators for Value Added Target Setting
PMLD - Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties
PP - Parent Partnership – same as IASS - Information, Advice and Support Service (either term may be used depending on where you live)
PPO - Parent Partnership Officer (see PP above)
PR - Parental Responsibility
PRU - Pupil Referral Unit
PSAC - Preschool Assessment Class
PSP - Pastoral Support Programme
PT - Physiotherapy/Physiotherapist
RAC - Reception Assessment Class
RAPT - Raising Achievement and Performance Team
RoA - Record of Achievement
SA - School Action
SA+ - School Action Plus
SALT/SLT - Speech and Language Therapist
SATs - Standard Assessment Tests
Scotopic Sensitivity - light sensitivity/sensitivity to visual glare, causing reading difficulties, headaches etc. - also known as Irlen Syndrome/Irlen-Meares Syndrome (just one of the types of VPD)
SEN - Special Educational Needs
SENCo - Special Education Needs Co-ordinator
SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disability
SENDCoP - Special Education Needs & Disabilities Code of Practice (same as CoP).
SENDIASS - Special Education Needs, Information, Advice and Support Service
SENDIST - Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal
SENSS - Special Educational Needs Specialist (or Support) Services
SENTW - Special Educational Needs Tribunal for Wales
SLCN - Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SLD - Severe Learning Difficulties
SLI - Specific Language Impairment
SMO - School Medical Officer
Sound System - like an FM system, but where everyone in the room can receive amplified speech from the teacher wearing a microphone via speakers on walls or headsets/earpieces. Often found in HI schools. Does not directly improve processing, just clarity of speech.
SpLD - Specific Learning Difficulties
***** SPD - Spatial Processing Disorder (one of the difficulties in APD affecting locating the direction that sound/speech is coming from)

***** SPD - Sensory Processing Disorder - used to be called Sensory Integration Disorder / SI (causes sensory sensitivity or sensory seeking behaviours)

SPD - Sensory, Physical, Medical
SS - Social Services
STAPS - Specialist Teacher and Psychology Service
SW - Social Worker.
TA - Teacher's Aide
TAC - Team Around Child
TEACCH - Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication Handicapped Children
UT or UTT - Upper Tribunal
VI - Visual Impairment
VPD - Visual Processing Disorder (sometimes referred to as Visual Perceptual Disorder)

WIATT - Wechsler Individual Achievement Test - an assessment that may be used
WISC - Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children - an assessment that may be used
WPPSI - Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence - an assessment that may be used for preschool children
WTT - Working Together Team - outreach service supporting children with a wide range of social communication and / or learning needs