

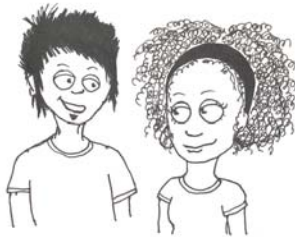


Frequently Asked Questions about Educational Psychologists (EPs)

What do Educational Psychologists (EPs) do?

Educational Psychologists work with adults and young people. They know how schools work and what helps young people to learn and do well. Educational Psychologists do all sorts of things including:

- Talking to young people about what helps them do well at school and what gets in the way.
- Talking to parents and teachers about the worries and concerns they have about how a young person is doing.
- Bringing young people and adults together to draw up plans which help everyone learn about what is going on and what may help.
- Listening to young people to ensure that everyone is clear about their views and ideas.



Will my friends and teachers know I am working with an EP?

Your friends will only know if you tell them. Educational Psychologists usually work with you, your parents and some of your teachers to find ways of meeting concerns and helping you learn, feel confident and get on well. It is really only 'by working together' that problems get sorted. So, yes, particular teachers will know.



Who do EPs work for?

Educational Psychologists work for the County Council as part of Children's Services. They are not members of a school staff. Educational Psychologists are not doctors or psychiatrists. Their job is to achieve the best outcomes for young people. This works best when the young person and the adults around them altogether.

If I work with an EP does that mean I'm doing badly at school?

Absolutely not. Educational Psychologists might work with you because you are doing well but worry a lot, or are unhappy. Educational Psychologists might work with you to help you learn how to study. Educational Psychologists might also work with you because you have begun to behave inappropriately, You might be having a difficult time at school or you are giving teachers a hard time. Educational Psychologists can help to move things on if you want to do this differently. Or they might work with you because your behaviour is getting in the way of you succeeding and you and your teachers want things to be different.

EPs also work with groups or whole classes on things like how to relax, cope with worries and make and keep friends.

The job of all Educational Psychologists is very varied!

If I talk to an EP will they tell others about me?

The EP will listen very carefully to you. What is said is kept confidential unless the EP feels that what has been said means that you are at risk of being hurt or harmed in any way. If this happens the EP will tell you why they must tell someone else and who it would be helpful for you to talk to



How can I get to talk to an EP?

The best way is for you to talk first to your form tutor or an adult who you know will listen. That adult will listen and talk to you about who it is in school that links with the Educational Psychologist. It is usually the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).

Will my name be kept on a list or register somewhere?

EPs will keep a file which you can ask to read at any time.

Your name, birth date and school will be put on a confidential database.

When I go for a job or apply to college will the Educational Psychologist let people know that they have worked with me?

No.