



Egginton Primary School Early Help Offer

What is Early Help?

Early help means providing support to our children and families at Egginton Primary School as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. There is nothing to be ashamed of in asking for help. The Early Help Service helps you recognise what's going well for you, where you may benefit from extra help and who is the best person to work with you and your family to make this happen. This may be through an Early Help Assessment (EHA). At Egginton Primary School, we know the children well: we are alert to the welfare of our children and are vigilant regarding any situation in which we can provide support. We have a number of systems in place to help and we seek at all times to work in collaboration with families, with openness, integrity and understanding and with the needs of the child at the centre of all we do. You can speak with any member of the school staff who would be happy to work with you or pass your concerns directly to the Headteacher. Early Help is vital because there is clear evidence that it results in better outcomes for children, ensuring that they are able to be healthy, safe, valued and achieve their full potential.

The Referral Process

We may receive requests for support and have concerns raised about individual children and families from many different sources. These may include the following:

- Self-referral from a child, parent or carer
- Notification of concern or request for support from school staff or specialist services
- Identification of a need from school staff

Regardless of the route of the request for support, a Family Support Referral form is completed, usually by the Headteacher/SENDCo, with an initial meeting with the family. The use of this form ensures consistency of information and the ability to prioritise need and which other agencies or services could be accessed. Where there is a risk of significant harm, there is an immediate referral made into Child Protection Services.

Early Help Assessment

By completing an Early Help Assessment (EHA) the Headteacher will get a full picture about the whole family. We use it to identify what is working well and identify the areas where you could do with a bit of extra support. It is your choice to take part in the assessment and you can choose who else should be involved. Every person and family is different, but an Early Help Assessment (EHA) will:

- Help you see what's going well and not so well for your family
- Help you and others to see what support you might need
- Create a picture of your family's circumstances, which can be shared with your permission, so you don't have to repeat yourself to different workers
- Help you to be part of a team of people working together on the same plan to get things going well again.

What happens after the EHA?

With your permission, people from different organisations working with your family will share information and work together to help support you and your children. This could be school, health visitors, mentors, nursery, etc. This may then be followed by a 'Team around the Family' meeting. Agencies cannot share your information unless you agree, because your information is protected by law under the Data Protection Act.

What is a 'Team around the Family' meeting?

The family and professionals involved come together to make a support plan. This is reviewed at regular intervals to ensure that progress is being made for your family and that the right support is in place. At this meeting, you'll choose a 'lead worker'. This can be any one of the people working with your family; you might choose the worker you see most often, or the person you find most approachable. Your lead worker will arrange the review meetings and be someone you can speak to at any point about any concerns or issues you and your family are experiencing.

What happens when I stop receiving early help services?

We want you to become confident and able to find your own solutions and take responsibility for your family. You can continue to use all services that are open to families and children and if your needs change, then please ask us for further help if you need it.

USEFUL CONTACTS:

- If you think a child is at risk of harm always phone CALL DERBYSHIRE: **01629 533190**
- Domestic abuse support and information services in Derbyshire: **0800 019 8668**
- DIASS - Derbyshire Information Advice & Support Service for SEND: **01629 533668**
- Citizen's Advice Bureau: **0300 456 8390**
- Derbyshire Recovery Partnership (alcohol/drugs): **0845 308 4010**
- Derbyshire Mental Health Support: **0800 028 0077**
- Relate **01332 349177** or **07741193484**
- Samaritans **116 123**