



Strategic Partnership Boards
SAFETY SAFEGUARDING WELLBEING



Bitesize video guide: Early Help

Context – Background

To me, Early Help is everyone's business and practitioners working in universal and targeted services need to be aware of their role in delivering Early Help so that Children and Families receive the right help, at the right time, by the right people, for the right reasons, where they can access it best.

I can think of 3 situations where early help might be required:

1. A year 8 pupil has poor attendance and punctuality. He always looks tired is disengaged in his lessons and homework is not regularly completed. For the last few weeks he has been getting an increasing number of behaviour points and has recently been spotted by the safer schools officer hanging around the local park with known trouble makers after school. Parents do not respond to any school requests and never provide Dr's notes for his absence. The school could carry out an early help assessment and put together a plan of support linking this to the existing Early Help offer that the school already provides such as a breakfast club, learning mentor, home school support.
2. A single Father has 2 primary school aged children who attend your school, the eldest child has ADHD and he struggles to control his behaviour. Father often shouts at the children as he doesn't know how else to get them to listen. You know the family had some social services support in the past but things had improved and their case was closed. He has come to you as the head of year because he is going to be evicted next month as the landlord wants to sell the property and he tells you he has nowhere to go and no money to rent somewhere new. An early help assessment

should be offered as a way of capturing the family's needs as the family may need an Early Help worker to support dad to manage some of the challenges that his family are facing.

3. A family of 3 recently lost their mother; they are now living with their grandparents in a one bedroom property at the opposite end of the borough. The eldest child is in secondary school and has not spoken to anyone about the loss of her mother and seems increasingly volatile with adults in school. The middle child is in year 3 primary and has started wetting himself at night and is refusing to come to school each day, making everyone late and leaving grandma increasingly stressed and looking after the 2 year old youngest. The family are overcrowded, struggling financially and do not know if they are entitled to any help, she approaches the primary school for help. A team around the family meeting may help to determine who would be the best person to lead an Early Help Assessment that will support a plan of action to help address some of the difficulties this family are facing.

Three messages to take away

Families getting the help they need early when issues start to emerge is much better for the family as things are less likely to build up to crisis point

A professional that is known to the family and they trust is the best person to find out what's going on for the family so the right support can be given

Early Help should be work that is done in partnership with families and not done too, they should be the ones to lead on the decisions for improving their situation with guidance and support when needed from their worker

Thanks for watching, and goodbye!

