



Strategic Partnership Boards  
SAFETY SAFEGUARDING WELLBEING



## **Bitesize video guide: Early Help**

Hello, my name is Rebecca Whitney, and I am an Early Help Coordinator for Waltham Forest council.

Early Help is everyone's business and practitioners need to be aware of their role in delivering Early Help so that Children and Families receive the right help, at the right time.

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

1. The first is a year 8 pupil has poor attendance and punctuality. His work is often not completed, and he has been getting into trouble in and out of school. His parents don't respond to any school requests and never provide doctor'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 and home school support.
2. The second is a single father has 2 primary school aged children who attend your school, the eldest of whom has behaviour problems. You know that 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 he will be evicted next month, and he has nowhere to go and no money to rent somewhere new. An early help assessment should be offered by the school 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. The 3<sup>rd</sup> situation is a family of 3 recently who recently lost their mother. They are now living with their grandparents in a one-bedroom property across the borough the borough. The eldest child is in secondary school and seems increasingly volatile. The middle child is in year 3 primary and has started bed-wetting and is refusing to come to school each day. Grandma is increasingly stressed and looking after the 2-year-old youngest. The family are struggling financially and do not know if they are entitled to any help. The school should refer to Early Help as a team around the family meeting can help determine the best person to lead an Early Help Assessment. This will support a plan of action for this family.

Here are your three messages to take away

The earlier the families get the help they need the better, as things are less likely to build up to a crisis point

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

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

Thanks for watching. Goodbye!