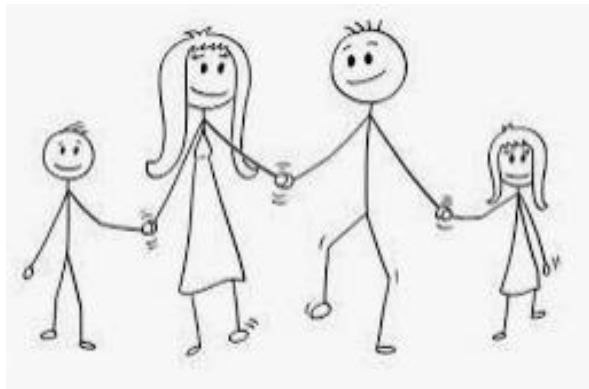




Early Help for your family



Getting the right help and support for your family at the right time.

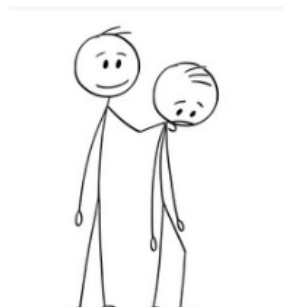
If you think you might benefit from an Early Help Assessment, or would like further information, please call the school office on 01332 673785

What is Early Help?

Every family goes through challenging times at some point. Early help is a way of working with you and your family and getting the extra help and support when your family needs it and getting it as soon as difficulties start, rather than waiting until things get worse.

Early Help is for everybody, for families with children and young people of any age, and it's your choice whether to have it or not.

Help can come from all kinds of services and organisations who work together to support you and your family. You might be using some of these services already, but we want to make sure they are providing the right support for you and your family's needs.



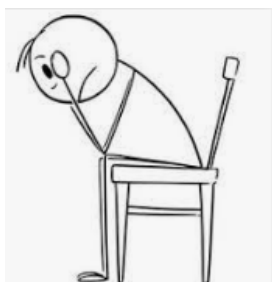
Why would I seek early help?

There are lots of reasons why people look for early help. It could be that you're worried about your child's health, development or behaviour, or perhaps because you are caring for a disabled child.

Maybe your child is affected by family relationships, drugs or alcohol or you are experiencing personal distress or anxiety, financial or housing problems.

Perhaps your child is a carer for other people or maybe you've had a bereavement in the family that's making life a challenge.

By getting help from the right services at the right time, and as early in a child's life as possible, we can help prevent or reduce potential problems for children as they grow up.



Who do I ask?

Contact our school office on 01332 673785 and ask to speak to Mrs Thompson – she can help you look at what types of support are available and who might be able to help. Mrs Thompson will steer you through the help and support you may need.

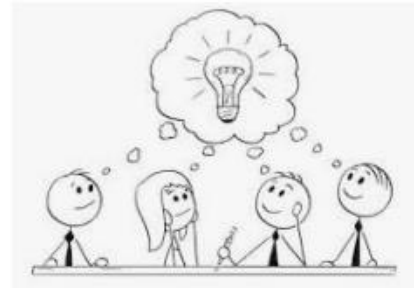
How do we work with you?

We work together with you whenever you need our support and we don't judge. There is a huge range of services around Derby and Derbyshire but it's not always obvious which ones are available to you or how to find them.

While every family is different, the way we work is really straight forward. When you need some support for yourself or your child, we work with you to help you complete the Early Help Assessment process.

When you start the Early Help process, you're on the path to getting support with any problem you might be facing.

The Early Help process is nothing to be worried about. It's just a conversation to work out how we can help you to stop small problems turning into a big problem.



What happens in the Early Help Process?

We will talk with you about the problems you are experiencing and ask you about what help and support you think you might need.

We will also talk to your children to make sure we understand how they are feeling and anything they think they might want some help with.

What happens next will be different for every family:

- You might make a plan with us to sort through the issues or problems you have.
- You might want other people to support you from other agencies (e.g. housing, counselling etc). This is called a Team Around the Family and these professionals will meet with you to support you as you work through your problems.

Can I say no to an Early Help assessment?

Yes you can. But we would like to keep in regular contact with you in case your circumstances alter or you change your mind.

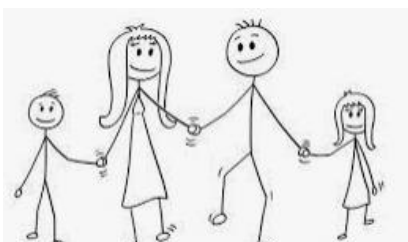
What sort of services or help do I get?

As well as the support provided by our school there are also a range of services that can help you; it really depends on what you need and might include services you already get. We will agree it with you and make sure it all joins up. Here are just a few examples:



What happens if I ask for an early help assessment?

You will be fully involved and we will listen to you. It may be that we just talk to you and point you to the support you want. If it's a bit more complicated, we'll need to ask you for information that we write down or type. This is so we can get the right information and share it (if you agree) with people who need to know, so we can better understand your circumstances and match up services that would help you out the most. You'll get a plan showing what you want to achieve and the support you need.



Sharing Information

At the start of the process we will ask you to give your consent to share the information you have given us with services that can help you during this process.

There may also be other times when we have to share information and this includes:

- If we think a child is at risk of harm
- If we think an adult is at risk of harm
- If we think the information could help or detect a serious crime

Social care will not get involved unless one of these things happen, or if the circumstances in your family change and become more serious.

Remember : it is your choice to have an Early Help Assessment