

What is the Early Help Approach?

Early help means doing something to help to stop a difficulty or a problem from getting worse. The Early Help approach is there to identify and describe the needs and strengths of a child or young person and their family, ensuring they get the right help at the right time.

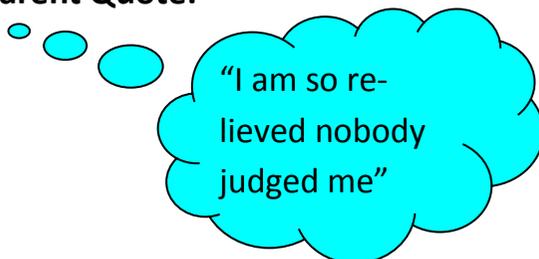
When should the Early Help Approach be used?

Early Help is used when a child, young person or family could benefit from extra support. You as a parent may have asked for extra support or an agency working with your family may suggest extra help. The sooner an Early Help Assessment is started the quicker you, your child and the agencies working with you can explore how best to support your child and family.

Who gets involved?

Those who can offer you the best support, such as your GP, Health Visitor, Child and Family Centre Worker, Youth Worker or any other agency person who work with you and your child or young person.

Parent Quote:



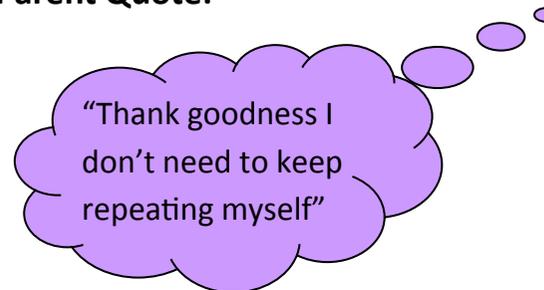
What happens next?

An Early Help Assessment will be completed by you, your child, family and any other agency working with you. Many families feel that this is an opportunity to share their story and really feel listened to. During the meeting a plan is put together. It will include the support that is being offered and will help you, your child and the agencies working with you, know who is going to do what and when. A lead worker will also be agreed.

What is a team around the child and family meeting?

These meetings put your child at the centre of discussions and decisions. They are a way to bring together all the agencies involved to find the best way to support your family.

Parent Quote:



What is a Lead Worker?

It will normally be someone you already know. They will work to bring together the support being offered and help to stop agencies repeating any work. It will also be a way of checking if the work that agencies are doing is making a difference to your family.

Parent Quote:



Do I have to take part?

The Early Help Approach is entirely voluntary, so if you don't think it is right for your child then you don't have to complete an Early Help Assessment.

Is it confidential?

As a rule, the information you provide will only be shared with people with your consent. There may though, be certain times when people working with you may need to share information. For example:

- if a child or adult may be at risk of harm
- to prevent a serious crime

Where possible, this would be discussed with you before hand.

Child's voice:



What are the benefits?

The benefits of the Early Help Approach are:

- A joined up approach to helping your family.
- An assessment that can be shared with all services, meaning you don't have to keep giving the same information or telling your story to everyone you meet.
- A lead worker keeping you informed at each step of the way and answering any questions you need to know.
- An assessment which is about your child and family and what you identify needs support.
- All workers are checking regularly if what they are doing is helping with the problem or difficulty that your family was experiencing.

Young Person's voice:



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The Early Help Approach: Your Child Your Family Our Focus

How do I contact the Early Help team?

If you are interested in finding out more you can speak with a professional already supporting your child or contact the Early Help co-ordinator:

Email: earlyhelp@gov.je

Tel: 07797 920571

Information for Parents and Carers

The Early Help Approach Your Child, Your Family, Our Focus.



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