

What do we mean by Early Help?

Early Help means taking action to support a child or their family early in the life of a problem, as soon as it emerges. It can be required at any stage in a child's life from pre-birth to adulthood, and applies to any problem or need that the family cannot deal with or meet on their own. Early Help requires that agencies should work together as soon as a problem emerges or a need is identified to ensure the child gets the right response, and the right services, from the right people at the right time.

At Yenton Primary, our aim is to meet needs early and avoid a problem escalating or the need increasing. Early Help is provided to prevent or reduce the need for specialist interventions unless they are absolutely the correct response to meet the need and resolve the problem.

At Yenton Primary, Early Help is often offered in the form of:

- Wellbeing intervention groups
 - (e.g Forest School, Lego club)
- Wellbeing clubs
- One to one mentoring (e.g.well-being team check-ins, therapist, social groups)
- Therapeutic support (e.g. counselling)
- Parental Attendance meetings
- Parental meetings with therapist, SENCO, speech and language therapist
- Salvation Army/ City Mission food parcels
- Clothing parcels
- Visits and activities (e.g.Wow experiences to start topics, attendance reward trips, cinema trip)
- Referrals for medical support including Forward Thinking Birmingham, School nurse
- Spurgeons referrals (Spurgeons Children's Charity is one of the UK's leading children's charities, supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families.)
- Edwards Trust referrals (Edward's Trust is a bereavement charity that supports children and families facing loss and surviving bereavement).
- Parental coffee mornings
- Teamworx – (Teamworx is run and managed by various services, mainly West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Services, and other external providers. The aim of Teamworx is to raise aspirations, improving confidence and raise self-esteem).
- Mentor Link- (**Mentor Link** is a registered charity dedicated to providing social and emotional support to distressed children and young people).

How we identify Early Help?

- We allow time for relationships to build between parents and staff. This, in turn, helps parents discuss their family's needs within a confidential but supportive atmosphere.
- Parents' Evening discussions
- CPOMS- (a software application for monitoring child protection, safeguarding and a whole range of pastoral and welfare issues within school)
- Staff trained to deliver Three Houses- (This is a strategy used to capture the pupil's own voice. The Three Houses method mimics the three key assessment questions of the Signs of Safety Framework: • What are you worried about? • What's going well? • What needs to happen. The child is told- "in the first house we will write your worries, so that's the house of worries, the second we'll put in the things you like in your life, that's

the house of good things and then we will have a house of dreams where we can write and draw how you would like things to be in your life if all your worries were solved. This helps the child to verbalise what they think are their Early Help needs).

- Parental coffee mornings
- Parental attendance meetings

The key steps

There are 4 key steps to providing Early Help –

1. **SEE**- identify that there is a possible issue, problem or need and find out more – from the child or young person, their parents or carers, and other professionals and agencies who know the child
2. **PLAN** - assess the need and plan with the child, young person and their parents or carers, alongside other professionals, as necessary, how best to meet that need
3. **DO** – agree who will lead the plan, implement the plan together, commission or provide the service (s)
4. **REVIEW** - review progress, change the plan, change services or withdraw because the help is no longer needed

Every professional has a responsibility to identify or see the need for early help and to act accordingly – if more than one agency needs to be involved they must work together to assess it, respond appropriately depending on the identified needs, and provide services as necessary.

- Decisions are reached through having conversations with each other as well as with the child, or young person and their family
- Decisions focus on the best response to meet the needs of the child
- The tools, processes and protocols followed are there to support professionals to have the right conversations, use the right information and make child focussed decisions, rather than as an end in themselves

Right Help Right Time

The Right Help, Right Time document will be used to assess need.

<http://www.lscpbirmingham.org.uk/delivering-effective-support>



Article 3- UNICEF Rights Of The Child

All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.