

Early Help Assessments at Red Kite Special Academy

Early Help means working with families to ensure that they receive the right help and support as soon as they need it. Early Help is for everybody, for families with children and young people of any age. It is a family's choice whether they wish to access it or not.

Early Help and support

There are lots of reasons why families might want some support including:

- Advice regarding their child's health, development or behaviour
- Support in relation to education
- Caring for a child with a disability or additional needs
- Concerns about money or housing that is affecting a family
- Help around domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol or crime
- Bereavement support
- Being a young carer.

The issues highlighted by the assessment will then create an action within the assessment paperwork and will be an area for further discussion.

Accessing Early Help

Some of our pupils arrive at school with an Early Help Assessment (EHA) in place from a previous setting or another professional team.

The family support team will usually take over as the lead professional. This involves liaising with the family, arranging meetings, inviting other professional teams to be involved and then running and recording the meetings on the official Early Help documentation.

Having a single point of contact for a family is less confusing and reduces the amount of conversations, stress and organisation by parents. With an EHA in place professionals are obliged to join meetings. It also helps to access further services.

These documents will then get sent to the Local Authority (LA) Early Help team. The Early Help team offers advice and support if the lead professional is struggling to move forward with an action.

The Early Help Process and Assessment

The Early Help Assessment (EHA) is a process designed to help in the following ways:

- The family receive the right support before a small need grows into a larger one
- Create a shared assessment, so that the family will not have to repeat the same information to different workers
- Ensure that everyone involved with the family, such as teachers and health visitors, work together to support the child.

An EHA is a conversation where a discussion can be had about things that are going well and things that the family are proud of as well as things that they are finding a challenge and where support can be put into place to help. Throughout the process, the family has control over who is involved. The family will also be given a copy of the assessment form and action plans, and be told who will see it, where it is stored and how it will be used.

Sharing information

Parents are asked to sign to give permission for information to be shared. This information is confidential and is only shared on a need to know basis.

How to access this support

If you are a Red Kite family who wish to access Early help support. Please contact samantha.sawyer@redkite.school or ring the school office and ask to speak to a member of the family support team.