

Contacting us:-

If you want to know more about Early Support, please get in touch.

Your Local Early Support contacts are:

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Find details about Early Support in Cambridgeshire online at:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/early-support

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/thinkfamily

National Early Support information resources to download:

www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources

If you would like a copy of the text of this leaflet in large print, Braille, audio tape, CD or in another language, please contact the Support for Learning Team on 01223 728 311 or email scc.supportforlearning@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire Early Support for Families with Children 0-5 years with Disabilities or Complex Additional Needs



Who is Early Support For?

A child with significant and complex additional needs who requires on-going specialist support from across education, health and social care. This includes children who have great difficulty communicating, have sensory or physical difficulties and/or complex health needs. All need additional support with much of their daily lives and it is probable that there will be a long term impact on their development and learning.

What is Early Support?

- ❖ Early Support is a way of working that aims to improve the access and delivery of services for **children who are disabled or who have lifelong significant and complex additional needs** related to their development and learning, and their families.
- ❖ It is a framework for parents and professionals to **work together** and support families right from the start
- ❖ Early Support keeps **families and children at the centre of decision making** and puts their needs first
- ❖ Through the Think Family approach and 'Team around the Family' meetings **parents and professionals plan and review together**, coordinating services and support which avoids duplication
- ❖ A named **lead professional**, identified with parents, is the main point of contact for families and professionals who ensures co-ordination of support, services and information
- ❖ Using the Early Support 'Family File' reduces the need for families to repeat their child's story.

What is a Lead Professional?

All families can have a lead professional, who is a person already known to a family. They can support the family by:

- ❖ Being a **first point of contact**.
- ❖ Assisting with the **planning** and **coordination** of services.
- ❖ Ensuring that families have the **information** they need.
- ❖ Helping families **use local services** e.g. Children's Centres, health services, play groups.

How do I find out more?

There are two **Early Support coordinators** who support the delivery of Early Support and assist Lead Professionals coordinating referrals, assessment, planning, services, support and information.

They are a central contact point and a source of expertise and knowledge of the services, support and information available from organisations who work with children who are disabled or who have additional needs related to their development and learning.

Please contact an Early Support coordinator for more information, help and support. (Contact details overleaf)