

EARLY HELP: WHAT DOES FAMILY SUPPORT LOOK LIKE?

Support for families with children and young people aged 0–25 (with SEND)

Creation of a collaborative Family Plan

Family Support can be accessed via school, nursery, health services or self-referral

*For residents of
Waltham Forest



Early Help: Family Support

Early Help Practitioners support families with children and young people aged 0-18 and up to 25 years old with special educational needs or disability.

Early Help Practitioners work collaboratively with families to address any area of need and where potential challenges and barriers may arise, at the earliest possible opportunity.

Early Help is a consent-based service. This means that a referral for Early Help can only be made for your child and family with your knowledge and agreement.

With your continued consent the Early Help Service can work with you and your family for three to six months.



What does working with an Early Help Practitioner look like for families?

Your Early Help Practitioner will...



Meet with all children and family members (this could be at home/school/Family Hub) to best understand what is happening for you and your family. Then (with your consent) they will also contact any relevant professionals, for example education and health.



Capture your family's experience in a document called an Our Family Journey (OFJ). Your OFJ will include a plan, that you have created together. The completed OFJ can only be shared with other people/professionals with your consent.



Arrange a Team Around The Family (TAF) meeting to co-ordinate and review your agreed plan. The purpose of the TAF meeting is to bring you together with the group of people/professionals who provide support to you and your family.



Your Family will be allocated an Early Help Practitioner who is based in one of the four local area Family Hubs. Scan the QR code for the hubs.



How can you access Early Help Family Support:

You can explore whether your family may benefit from a referral to Early Help by talking to a professional within your child's school/ nursery/health service (or any other professional who you or your child may be receiving support from).

Alternatively you can self refer by contacting the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) via phone: **0208 496 3000** or via email: **mashrequests@walthamforest.gov.uk**