

Early Help

Early help and early intervention are forms of support aimed at improving outcomes for children or preventing escalating need or risk.

They include:

- Parenting support
- Play and activity groups
- Emotional health and wellbeing support
- Communication and language support

They are provided by the local authority and vary according to which local authority you live in (Cambridge or Suffolk).

The purpose of early help is to:

- protect children from harm
- reduce the need for a referral to child protection services
- improve children's long-term outcomes
- improve children's home and family life
- support children to develop strengths and skills to prepare them for adult life.

Some groups of children may be more likely to need early help than their peers. These include children who:

- have special educational needs
- are disabled
- are young carers
- are showing signs of being encouraged into anti-social or criminal behaviour
- experience difficulties at home, such as domestic abuse, parental substance abuse or parental mental health problems
- are at risk of being affected by organised crime and county lines
- are in care, leaving care or preparing to leave care
- have poor attendance at, or are excluded from, school
- are young parents (or about to become young parents)
- are experiencing housing issues
- misuse drugs or alcohol
- are viewing harmful online content or experiencing inappropriate or unsafe online relationships
- are being bullied or bullying others
- have poor general health
- have mental health issues

Research also suggests that some children are less likely than others to receive the early help or early intervention that they need. These include:

- Black and mixed heritage boys
- babies born into care
- adolescents in care proceedings
- children with mental health needs.

Michelle West is our Family Support Worker – her details are on the board between the PPA room and the staffroom. Feel free to photocopy the details and give them to parents if you feel it would be useful or chat to David or Alice.

For more information see the website:

<https://www.burroughgreen.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=Early+Help&pid=73>