

SHARING INFORMATION

If you decide you'd like to access early help, the person you talked to will ask if they can share details of your conversation. This is to make sure the people who will be supporting you are able to do a good job for you and understand the journey you and your family have been on. You need to be happy with this and give your permission.

There may be times when the person you talked to has to share information without your permission. This includes:

- If they think a child is at risk of harm
- If they think an adult is at risk of harm
- If they think the information could help prevent or detect a serious crime

Social care won't get involved while you are accessing early help unless one of these things happens, or unless the circumstances in your family change and become more serious.

Remember, it's your choice to have early help. Early help is here to help you and your family stop small problems turning into big problems – and hopefully into no problems at all.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

If you'd like to find out more about early help you can talk to a professional involved with your family or visit your local family centre.

Find out more at:

www.barnsley.gov.uk/earlyhelp

or email:

earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk

If you need help understanding this document please contact Families Information Service

0800 0345 340



Early Help

A guide for Parents and Carers



www.barnsley.gov.uk/earlyhelphelps



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council



WHAT IS EARLY HELP?

Every family can go through challenging times at some point. Early help means working with you and your family so that small problems don't become big problems.

Early help is for everybody, for families with children and young people of any age, it's your choice whether to have it or not.



HOW CAN I GET EARLY HELP?

If you feel you and your family might need support to solve some problems, you can ask a professional involved with your family about early help. This might be a teacher at your child's school, your GP, your health visitor, nursery practitioner or your housing support worker. If you find this difficult you can always contact your local family centre to ask for advice. We'll work with you to find someone for you to talk to.

If someone is worried that you're having some problems, they might ask you if you would like to talk about early help.

WHY WOULD I WANT EARLY HELP?

There are lots of reasons why people look for early help.

It could be that you're worried about your child's health, development or behaviour, or how they're doing at school, or perhaps because you are caring for a disabled child.

It may be that you're worried about money or housing and how that is affecting your family.

Maybe your child or your family is affected by domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol or crime.

Perhaps your child is a carer for other people, or maybe you have had a bereavement in the family that's made life a real challenge.

Early help can give you the tools to solve any challenges or problems you are experiencing with help from others where needed.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I ASK FOR EARLY HELP?

The professional will talk with you about the problems you're experiencing. They will ask what help and support you think you might need. This is called an early help assessment (EHA).

Early help assessment is nothing to be worried about. It's just a conversation to work out how to help you stop small problems turning into big problems. You can talk about things that are going well and things that you are proud of as well as things that you're finding a challenge.

The person will also talk with your child or children in your family to make sure they understand how they are feeling and anything they think they might want some help with.

Together you'll agree what to write down so there is a record of what you talked about.

What happens next will be different for every family. You might make a plan with the person you spoke with to sort out the problems. You might want to meet with other people who might be able to help. This is called a team around the family (TAF) meeting. Or you might want to get a service (like family support) to give you the help you feel you need.

These are just examples. You can say what you think will help you and your family.

