

Early Help Assessment

November 2024

Policy statement

We are committed to providing the very best support to all the families and children that we meet and work in partnership with parents/carers and other agencies to meet every child's individual needs. We aim to identify a child's needs early. Staff undertake to listen to concerns that families attending the school/pre-school may have and with the family's permission, put appropriate support in place.

Staff may approach a family and discuss needs if:

- The key person is worried about how well a child is progressing (e.g. concerns about their health, development, welfare, behaviour, progress in learning or any other aspect of their well-being).
- a child or young person, or their parent/carer, raises a concern with their key person or other practitioner.
- a child's or young person's needs are unclear, or broader than staff at the pre-school can address.

The Early Help Assessment is designed to help families access the right professionals as soon as possible. The EHA provides a standardised approach in a four-step process whereby practitioners can identify a child's or young person's needs early, assess those needs holistically, deliver coordinated services and review progress. The process is entirely voluntary and informed consent is mandatory, so families do not have to engage and if they do, they can choose what information they want to share.

The EHA process is ***not*** a 'referral' process but a 'request for services'.

The EHA is ***not*** a risk assessment.

The EHA does ***not*** replace the Child Protection Policy, which staff will continue to follow if and when necessary.

Early Help Assessments are made electronically via Liquid Logic. Supporting evidence and parental consent and privacy forms are attached to the electronic application.

The EHA's four-step process is outlined below:

- Step one - Identify Needs Early to Identify whether the child or young person may have additional needs. Possibly through using the EHA pre-assessment checklist
- Step two - Assess those needs to gather and analyse information on strengths and needs using the EHA.
- Step three - Deliver integrated services to determine, plan and deliver interventions to meet identified needs. Form a TAF and agree a lead professional if relevant.
- Step four - Review progress to Review the action and delivery plan, identify further actions when necessary and support child or young person's transition. Consent is the key to successful information sharing. For all assessments, it is important that consent is obtained where it is sensible, in the child's best interest, and practical. We will gain the consent of the parent or carer before starting an EHA, and we will advise them that they can withdraw this consent at any time.

Version	Changes made	Author	Date	Review Date
1.0	Baseline version	H Clarke	11 th October 2020	September 2021
1.1	Review – Updated details about Liquid Logic for applications.	H Clarke	20 th September 2021	September 2021
1.2	New Logo	H Clarke	9 th November 2022	September 2023
1.3	Review – no changes	H Clarke	November 2023	November 2024
1.4	No changes	H Clarke	23 rd September 2024	September 2025