



# Southwark Early Help Service

## What is Early Help?

Often when a child or children in a family have a problem, it can affect not only them but the whole family too. Early Help brings together professionals who work with the whole family to try to improve things for everyone. Early Help may include support with parenting, employment, support in schools, emotional wellbeing, school attendance and access to children centres.

If you decide to take up Early Help support, the worker will talk with you and more importantly listen to you to find out about any difficulties that your child and/or your family are having. They will also want to know about what is going well for your family and any strengths that you have that can be built upon. The worker will ask about the extra support that you think you might need and advise you on what is available.

The work of the Early Help Service is based on a Team Around the Family (TAF) approach, with a lead professional responsible for the coordination of the activities relating to supporting your child and family. The lead professional can be from any service but is often the person who

has the most contact with your child and family and has developed the type of relationship, which is most likely to secure a positive outcome.

### How do I find out more about getting support?

Usually, someone your family is already in contact with a professional such as a teacher, GP or health visitor and they might suggest that you would benefit from Early Help. However, you could also speak to a professional to find out more by contacting us on:

Email: [earlyhelp@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@southwark.gov.uk)  
Tel: 0207 525 2714

### Further advice and help for your family

**The Family Information Service** - offer information and advice about local services and support with finding childcare and applying for a school place.

Web: [southwark.gov.uk/familyinfo](http://southwark.gov.uk/familyinfo) Email: [family.info@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:family.info@southwark.gov.uk)

**Southwark's local offer** - provides information and support around special educational needs and disability.

Web: <http://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/> Email: [sias@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:sias@southwark.gov.uk)

**Southwark school admissions team** - assist with finding and applying for a local school place.

Email: [schools.admissions@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:schools.admissions@southwark.gov.uk) Tel: 0207 525 5337

**Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** - If you have concerns about a child/ young person being at risk of harm contact MASH.

Tel: 0207 525 1921