

Educational Services to Support Children in the Early Years



Who are we?

We are a service made up of two teams of professionals who work closely together to support children under 5 who have additional needs that may affect their development and educational progress.

- **Early Years Support Team**
Includes Early Years Advisory Teachers and Specialist Nursery Nurses.
- **Psychology and Advisory Support Team**
Includes Educational Psychologists and Foundation Stage Advisory Teachers.

These teams work with parents / carers, early years settings and schools to promote child development and learning.

The teams also work closely with teachers for Visual and Hearing Impairment.

Why has my child been referred?

Your child has been referred to us because you or a professional have noticed that he / she is experiencing some difficulties in one or more areas of their development.

What happens next?

Your referral is discussed at an Allocation Meeting. If we feel that we are not the right service to provide support to you and your child we will tell you this by letter.

If your referral is accepted, a member of one of the teams will contact you to arrange a visit. This may be at home and / or at your child's pre-school or nursery. We will carry out an Initial Assessment of your child's needs during this time and share our information with you.

When complete, the Initial Assessment is discussed with other members of the service and the best way to help you and your child will be identified.

All team members will work in partnership with you and with colleagues from other agencies.

What support can I expect?

Here are some examples of the type of support you might receive after the Initial Assessment:

- A visit could be arranged to see your child at home or at pre-school to give advice on specific strategies and approaches.
- Ongoing advice could be provided to support you and your child at home.
- Ongoing advice, support and training could be provided to the pre-school to enable your child to access educational opportunities.
- Support in the planning and transition of your child into school can be provided.

Advice can also be given about voluntary agencies that can help you and the type of support that is available in your child's early years education and childcare setting.

Contact Details

**Early Years Support Team
Children's Services
Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling House
High Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LF
Tel 0300 300 4364**

**Psychology and Advisory Support Team
Children's Services
Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling House
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