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Questions to consider when planning to complete an Early Help Assessment





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Ask yourself why the assessment is needed

- What is the reason for the referral?
- Is the child safe now?
- If not what needs to happen?
- Is the child's health and/or development impaired? In what way?
- Will it be impaired without the provision of services?



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Ask yourself who should be involved

- What other family members or significant adults should be seen?
- Which professionals are involved with the child?
- Who is best placed to respond to the needs of the child at this stage?
- What help is being asked for?
- If you need further information who else will you talk to?
- Who can help with cultural, language or disability issues?
- Are there communication difficulties?
- What communication method will be required?
- Is an interpreter needed?
- Which other professionals should be involved?
- Who does what?



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Ask yourself what is happening for the family

- What is the main question of the assessment?
- What are the main areas of need for the child?
- What is the impact of parenting of the wider family?
- What influence of the environment in this situation?
- What are the consequences of the present situation? And for whom?
- What are the strengths of this family?
- What needs to change?
- What are the immediate tasks?
- What is the response of the wider family to these concerns?
- Do they understand them and accept them or do they have other concerns or disagree?
- How do you know?
- Who is going to do what in terms of thinking planning and deciding?
- What about your support and supervision?
- What services, intervention or treatment needs to be provided for the child and family from the outset?



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Ask yourself where will I do the assessment

- Where should the assessment be carried out?
- Office? Home?
- Family centre or a combination?
- Where are you going to see the child?
- Would time observing the child help?
- Where is the Child in their Journey?



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Ask yourself how you will approach the assessment

- How should you explain this to the family and child?
- What other sources of knowledge of child and family are available and how will other family members and professionals be involved bearing in mind confidentiality and consent?
- How will you gain a family history without asking lots of questions?
- How will you engage the family and child with the assessment process?
- How will you record the information you have gathered?
- How will the information gathered be analysed and who will be involved?
- Is it likely further assessment or specialised assessment will be needed?



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Ask yourself when will the work be completed

- When does the assessment process start?
- When does the assessment finish?
- What is the child's timescale given their age and needs?
- When are you going to meet parents/wider family/child?
- When are you going to write this up?
- When are you going to share the assessment with the family?



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My Thoughts/ Notes: