

# National Early Support Programme

## What is Early Support?

Early Support is a way of working, underpinned by 10 principles that aim to improve the delivery of services for disabled children, young people (birth to 25) and their families. This principled way of working focuses on enabling services and practitioners to work in partnership with families. It also enables services to better co-ordinate their activity and provide families of children and young people with complex needs, with a single point of contact and continuity through key working.

Early Support is a core partner supporting the new Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms and is a key approach to meeting the needs of disabled children, young people and their families.

Early Support helps local areas implement the Government's strategy to bring together the services families need into a single assessment and planning process covering education, health and care, for children and young people with more complex needs.

## Information, Downloadable Resources and the Early Support App

The Early Support resources, materials and training are available to achieve a way of working that will support children, young people and their families, practitioners and others working with them.

The national resources ([www.ncb.org.uk/early-support/resources](http://www.ncb.org.uk/early-support/resources)) provide information on a range of conditions and general information. They also provide templates to enable families to share information about their child.

The app provides access to a range of information and enables families to record important things about themselves and their child to share with professionals working with them.

The existing Developmental Journals have been revised and extended through the age range, a new Developmental Journal has been launched for school age children 5 - 19. There are also Developmental Journals for specific childhood conditions or disabilities.

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## Early Support Principals

1. Valued Uniqueness
2. Planning Partnerships
3. Key Working
4. Birth to Adulthood
5. Learning and Development
6. Informed Choices
7. Ordinary Lives
8. Participation
9. Working together
10. Workforce Development

