

Why early intervention is important

Early intervention is important because unless you take action, your child is at risk of permanent exclusion, unauthorised absenteeism, being a school refuser, falling into anti-social behaviour patterns and worst case scenario joining the criminal justice system.

How early intervention works

Early intervention starts with you as the parent, as you have the main responsibility for your child. It's hard to accept that our child is not getting on well in school and the tendency is to blame the child, the school and even yourself. The good news is no one is necessarily to blame! We're all individuals and what might work for one person will not work for another, the same is true for our children. Some learn best sitting in a classroom being taught, others learn best through practical and / or creative learning e.g. using their hands. Finding your child's learning style will help them achieve their best potential.

Things you can do to help your child

- Get to know your child - it's incredible how little we know about our own children only finding out about them when things begin to go wrong
- Speak to your child - find out about their learning style, do they like sitting down and reading? Or do they like to move about a lot and /or be practical and creative e.g. using their hands? Do they like to learn on-line or in a face to face situation?
- Get to know the school your child is attending or they will be going to - is it the type of school that sees children as individuals with their own ideas or are all children treated as a one single group with those who don't fit into that set up being excluded socially? Is it strict on discipline?
- Ask yourself how your child's school supports them - does the school tell them what they must do and make assumptions about the reasons for your child's behaviour or does the school invite you and your child to discuss concerns and work with you and your child to understand your child's behaviour and likely reasons for it.

Children who have difficulty learning in their school

- If you think or know your child has difficulty with the way the school teaches so that they need additional or different support with