

Keeping it simple

The Early Support training packages offer parents, other family members, practitioners and their managers the opportunity to reflect, address attitudes, focus on service delivery, understand the support available, use Early Support materials effectively and, most importantly, work together to offer children with disabilities the best possible chance in life.

Early Support Training offers six different courses and participants can be trained in some or all aspects of training offered, depending on need. Some of the courses are already available, some are in the final stages of development and some are still in the early stages of development. The six courses offered are:

Using the Early Support Service Audit Tool

This one-day course aims to ensure that practitioners, managers and parents/carers understand the purpose of the Early Support Service Audit Tool – so they can see how useful it can be when planning for and evaluating improvement in outcomes for families. This course is already available and most of our Pathfinders have trainers who are trained and ready to deliver it. At the time of going to print around 200 practitioners and parents/carers have participated in this training.

Using the Early Support Monitoring Protocol

This one-day course aims to ensure that parents and practitioners understand the purpose and use of the Early Support Monitoring Protocol and its aim to enrich partnership working with families. This will be available in summer 2006.

Working with Children, with Additional Needs and with Disabilities (accredited)

This programme will be accredited. It is supported by 90 hours of training and it aims to provide an overview of the care and developmental needs of children with additional needs and with disabilities. It provides practitioners and families with the knowledge and confidence to meet the needs of children with additional needs and disabilities and ensure appropriate signposting to facilitate early identification and support. This course has been piloted and will be available in September 2006.

Bridging the gap – an Early Support course for parents

This two-day course aims to provide information and promote understanding about Early Support. It focuses on some of the skills parents may find useful, such as chairing meetings, and the background knowledge they may feel they need. It is intended to build the confidence needed to go on to study for the Working in Partnership through Early Support accredited programme. This course is in its early stages of development, in partnership with parents who will be the main authors.

Working in Partnership through Early Support (accredited)

Aims to enable parents/carers and practitioners to share language, ownership, and effective communication; seamless service delivery; and common vision, in line with Early Support principles. It has at its heart the improvement of partnership working. It has three units, each of which is supported by a day of training, distance learning and assessment activities. Each unit is also supported by a tutorial. Unit 1 introduces Early Support and partnership approaches; Unit 2 looks in depth at the Early Support approach, including key working; Unit 3 focuses on improving joint working through Early Support. The training element of this course is already available; the full accredited programme will be available in September 2006.

Working in Partnership through Early Support (managers' 2-day programme)

This non-accredited two-day course is aimed at managers and others who will not require accreditation. Like the accredited programme, it aims to support managers and others in their efforts to achieve seamless service delivery and common vision, in line with Early Support principles. It also has at its heart the improvement of partnership working. It enables managers to understand how Early Support can help them to achieve standard 8 of the National Service Framework and fulfil their responsibilities in terms of the 5 outcomes for children with disabilities. This course will be available in June 2006.

Early Support

Helping every child succeed

