

Early Support Assessment Principles

On allocation

- The focus is on quality over timescales but ultimately, we are aiming for both.
- The assessment starts as soon as the case is allocated and is ongoing.
- Preparation is crucial, plan from the beginning, what do you already know? what are the gaps and grey areas?
- Reflect on any previous support, how successful was the intervention? What worked or didn't work? Look on liquid logic at the closing summary and management oversight.
- Reflect on how the practitioner might work differently to meet the needs of the children and family.

Undertaking the assessment

- The assessment should be ongoing; not a one-off event, every contact, phone call, interaction contributes to the ongoing assessment
- Use the prompts in the grey boxes as a guide, as long as the information is in the assessment don't worry too much where it is.
- Check out the information you already have with family is it current, does it reflect what the family is thinking?
- Ensure there is a clear thread from the referral to the assessment, through to the plan and case recordings.
- The lived experience, voice and influence of the child/children needs to be evident throughout the assessment and should not be signed off without it.
- If assessments will not be completed in timescales, the management oversight should evidence the reasons why and include a plan of how and when the assessment will be completed. This should be recorded in case notes and in supervision.