

A guide for parents and carers

How parents can help

Your views and knowledge are important in helping the EP to understand your child's needs. You can help by:

- telling the EP about your child, including his or her strengths
- letting the EP know what your child is like at home
- preparing any questions you would like to ask



More detailed information about how we treat personal data can be found on our website www.derbyshire.gov.uk/privacynotices

We aim to work closely with other services and professionals (eg teachers, health professionals) in order to provide the best support for your child and it is important for us to share information. Derbyshire County Council has an Information Sharing Agreement with its partner agencies (this can be found by contacting Call Derbyshire (08 456 058 058) or at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/privacynotices

Wherever possible we will discuss the reasons for sharing information with you and ask for your consent. However in some circumstances, when we feel that you or others are at risk, we may share information without your consent. When sharing information we do so in line with the Data Protection Act and agreed information sharing protocols.

You can reach the Psychology Service by telephone at:

- Amber Valley, Erewash & South Derbyshire (01629 533815)
- Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire (01629 532735)
- High Peak & Derbyshire Dales (01629 533535)

Derbyshire Educational Psychology Service



Educational psychologists

Educational psychologists (EPs) have training and qualifications relating to education and child development. They are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (www.hpc-uk.org). EPs will advise others about child development, learning, emotional wellbeing and behaviour. They deal with children and young people of all ages.

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) works with other Derbyshire County Council services to help settings, parents and children.



EPs want to help children be happy and make progress.

How we work with schools

- All of Derbyshire's schools have a linked EP.
- We help by training, advising and getting involved with children directly.
- The EP will liaise closely with the school to agree and prioritise their work.
- Access to the service is through the school or setting.

EPS work with Early Years Children

Early Years children may be referred to the EPS by the Early Years Panel. Further information can be found at:

https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/early_years_childcare/default.asp



School and parents working with others

If you or the school staff notice any difficulties that your child is having with learning or relationships, the first stage is to discuss it and try to find ways of helping them. If this does not bring the changes wanted it may be helpful to seek further advice from other services or the EP.

Consent

An EP can only get involved with children with the written permission of all those with parental responsibility. We will ask you to sign our consent form. Often we have to become involved at different key points in a child's education, so your consent will remain in place throughout the child's schooling. However, before agreeing to any new request for involvement we will contact you again.

If the EP is involved with your child

It is not always necessary for the EP to see your child for things to change. They might talk to you and the school staff to offer their advice. If a more direct involvement is needed the EP will try to gain a better understanding of your child's strengths and difficulties through:

- meeting and talking with you
- talking with staff
- observing in the classroom or playground
- talking to your child on their own or with you there if you wish
- looking at school work
- using activities or tests with them

You have the right to be present when the EP is with your child if you wish. Sometimes it can be reassuring to an anxious or very young child. In other circumstances it can be off-putting to the child. You are likely to know best how your child will respond.