

## Early Help & Safeguarding Briefing: Support for families out of school term time

### Practitioner Guidance – top tips and services for Summer Holidays 2020

We appreciate that it is now very close to the end of summer term. Schools will have been working with families already to signpost sources of support and to prepare with families their programme during the summer holidays. This briefing provides some further tips to support schools with this activity as we approach the holiday period.

#### Summer holiday arrangements:

1. Explain to families open to early help in your school, your offer, and provide relevant contacts, and how you will respond to those contacts and help signpost to any information that may assist, including information on your school website.
2. Continue to encourage parents who have formed support groups to continue to do this.
3. Completion of an early help assessment (EHA), team around the family (TAF) and child's plan will involve parents and if appropriate extended family and friends who support the child & family. Identify key supporters to help the family and the roles they can play over the 6-week holidays, if a family feel isolated provide links to community services and befriending services.
4. If the family need support with routines, family relations; it would be appropriate to find positive supporters within the extended family & friends' groups or local community support. To help work with the child and family to have a pictorial timeline plan for daily routines.
5. During this period finances may increasingly become challenging for some families and help to map out a budget for the holidays will help. Alongside this local foodbank and the CAB may be needed to support the family. Information is available from your Early Help Advisor (details below).
6. Help the family to map out in the plan activities for the holidays and any special visits or days out they have planned. To help manage children's behaviour on days they are at home, help the family to plan different activities during mornings and afternoons. (A range of simple activities are available via the link at the end of this document)

Week	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

7. Arrange with the family keeping in touch (KIT) times and this can help keep the family motivated and coping with any challenges that may occur during the holidays.
8. If the children are entitled to free school meals (FSM), ensure you have arranged access to the vouchers or school catering meals over the summer. This may also give you an opportunity to keep in touch with the child and family.  
[Free School Meal Eligibility during the school summer holidays](#)
9. There is a range of emotional wellbeing and mental health support for children and parents and these services are available throughout the summer, your local Specialist Community Advisor (SCA) can refer children if these services are needed. This could include weekly contact sessions. <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/health-protection/disease-control/coronavirus/emotional-health-and-wellbeing/support-for-families/emotional-support-for-families.aspx>
10. A directory of COVID Safe activities is being compiled for the summer holidays and will support vulnerable children.
11. In preparation for children to return to school in September work with the family to gradually build in school readiness activities in the last two weeks of the holidays e.g. sleep routines, waking up for breakfast, some schoolwork etc.
12. Your local Early Help Advisor is available to support preparing for the summer and can help with families to develop their summer programme. (see links below)
13. On reviewing the EHA & child's plan for the summer, if the child's needs have escalated discuss with your Early Help Advisor whether the child's case needs to be referred to Starting Point. 01629 533190
14. The Starting Point professional advice line is available **01629 535353**.
15. Keep records of your activities and record on each child's file.
16. Those headteachers who are signed up for the school holiday/out of hours contacts will be contacted for in relation to any urgent incident and/or attendance at a child protection case conference.

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Summer activities for children and young people can be found [here](#).