



One-minute guide

Being a Child Champion

We can all be a champion for our children

Some children need extra help to achieve their potential and this may be because they have additional needs or because of family circumstances, adversity or events outside of their control. As practitioners we are in a unique position in our daily work with children and their families to identify those needing extra help, be their advocate and help them find the information, advice or support they need.

We are being a child champion when we:

- Listen to the voice of the child and young person
- Keep children and young people at the core of all the decisions we make
- Take steps to encourage and empower children, young people and their families to thrive
- Believe in what each child and young person can achieve.

If you would like to know more about an approach called 'Time for Kids' [follow this link](#).

What is expected when families need a co-ordinated multi agency response to meet their needs?

Whilst most of the needs of children and families can be met by universal services some may need a number of different services and a co-ordinated response. When multiple agencies are needed to provide that help the practitioner already working with the family will complete the Early Help Assessment with them to identify and agree the additional support that could be offered.

The practitioner leading the assessment (described in Working Together to Safeguard Children as lead professional) will act as the child's champion to find out:

- How things are for the family and how it effects their children?
- Who is in the family's wider network of support?
- What they think is going well in their family?
- What they would like to be different?
- What support they already have?
- Views of the child/children and their family.

A Team Around the Family (TAF) may then be needed with other practitioners coming together to offer the most appropriate support. The practitioner most appropriate to co-ordinate the response should be someone who knows the family well and works closely with them. This practitioner will act as the child champion and be a central point of contact for the family. They ensure the family is listened to, supported and kept informed. They will support the wider family and professional network in implementing the family plan.



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All members of the TAF are jointly responsible for developing and delivering the package of support and for completing their assigned actions. Each member should support the TAF by keeping the child champion informed, providing information and attending meetings. The child champion will co-ordinate meetings to regularly review progress.

A lead practitioner should undertake the early help assessment, provide help to the child and family, act as an advocate on their behalf and co-ordinate the delivery of support services. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.



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