

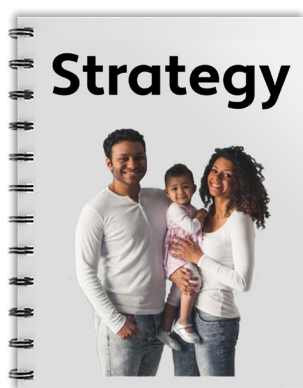
Early Years and Childcare Services Strategy 2022 - 2027



EasyRead Version



Essex County Council



This document is about our strategy to make sure that all children in Essex get the best start in life.



In this document 'we' means Essex County Council's Early Years and Childcare Service.



'You' means families with young children.

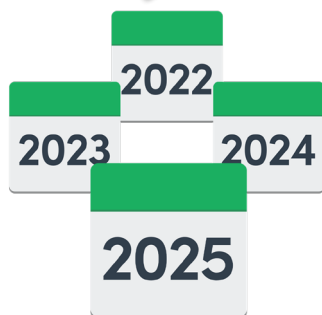


Early Years and Childcare 'System' means parents, children and everyone who works in early years and childcare. This is regardless of if they are employed or work voluntarily.



Our strategy is a 5 year plan to improve early years and childcare services.

It tells you:



- why we need to change
- what we aim to achieve
- how we will achieve our aims
- when we will achieve our aims

A survey form titled 'Tell us what you think' with a photo of a woman thinking. The question is '1. Do you think the idea is a good one?'. There are three checkboxes: 'Yes', 'No' (which is checked with a blue mark), and 'Not sure'. A hand is shown holding a pen, ready to fill out the form.

We have used a survey to get the views of over 1200 parents and other people who work with children in early years.



We have also followed the 2015 strategy which was co-produced by parents and Essex County Council.

The Importance of Early Years



We know that the first 5 years of a child's life are very important.



The skills they learn and relationships they build will affect their learning and successes throughout their life.



We know that if children get a good start in their first 5 years, they will:

- Be healthier mentally and physically.
- Do better in education and get a better job.
- Be more resilient. This means they will cope better with the difficult things in life.
- Have better relationships.
- Be safer and less likely to behave in ways that get them into trouble.



The Importance of Early Years



We want to make sure people and services work together the best they can.



We want parents to be supported to help their children get the best start in life that they can.



We have used what we know about our current system, and what people have told us to write our new Vision for this Strategy.



We want all children in Essex to be the best they can. We will make sure there is nothing in their way to stop them being the best they can be.



To achieve this, we will make sure that:

- There are enough good quality and inclusive childcare places for all children.
- All schools are inclusive and provide quality education, whatever the child's needs.



Our Vision



- All children are supported through transitions in Early Years.



- All families are supported to be the best they can be.



- Families know what services are available to them and how they can access these.



- Essex County Council provides access to the support and expertise needed to fulfil this vision.



These are the 6 aims to achieve our vision:

Our Strategy Aims



1. Children and their families will have support from an effective early years system. This means everyone in the system will work together in a better way.



2. All children have a great start in their early years. They are well supported and prepared to start Reception class at school and move from Reception into Year 1.



3. Children will get help quickly if we notice that they are not doing as well as they should.

Our Strategy Aims



4. Everyone who works in the early years system will be skilled and have the training they need.



5. Parents will have access to affordable, high quality inclusive childcare places.

Affordable means that the price is low enough for most people to pay for it.



6. We will help families to be the best they can be.