

Governance

Early Start Project Ltd is a charitable company and was formed in 1995. It is governed by a board of directors consisting of a consortium of health care professionals and community members.

Contact Us

Mon to Fri – 8am to 5pm

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Nurture the baby early

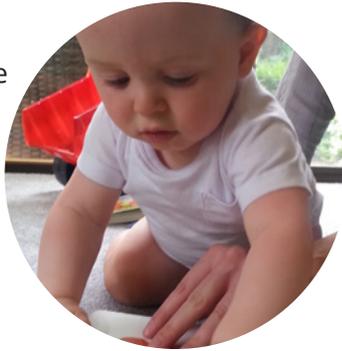
Early Start encourages and supports families to provide each of their children with a positive and enjoyable childhood experience



Early Start Project
Atawhaitia nga pepe

What we do...

Early Start is an intensive home visiting service for families/whanau with newborn babies where difficult situations have the potential to negatively impact on the life chances of children in their care.



Programme Aims

We encourage and support families/whanau to provide each of their children with a positive and enjoyable childhood experience.

The service provided is voluntary, free, long term and home based and promotes healthy child development within a nurturing family environment.

Early Start uses a planned, focused and systematic approach to intervention and intends to enable enrolled families/whanau to:

- > To learn and apply nurturing parenting practices
- > To discover personal strengths and abilities
- > To develop new skills and practices
- > To support healthy lifestyle change
- > To formulate individual family/whanau goals relevant to culture, environment and capacity
- > Celebrate success and maintain positive change over time
- > Every enrolled family is expected to take part in home based parenting programmes offered by Early Start



Referral Criteria

Referrals are accepted for Canterbury families who are willing to participate with a parent* who is pregnant or has an infant and who are facing two or more of the following challenges:

- > Young mother under 18 years of age
- > Mother started late antenatal care
- > Mental health issues i.e. depression, anxiety etc.
- > Significant difficulties with drugs, alcohol or gambling
- > Family relationships can be problematic and stressful
- > The Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki are currently or have previously been involved with the family
- > Baby has needs; i.e. pre-maturity, low birth weight, special needs or health & development issues
- > Parent(s) experienced abuse as a child or young person
- > Partner relationship is difficult at times
- > Difficulties with housing, transport or meeting day-to-day living expenses
- > Family has been in trouble with the Police
- > Parent(s) struggled at school and left early
- > Moved at least twice in the last 12 months
- > Minimal or inadequate social skills
- > Limited experience or skills in parenting

* Referrals accepted for young mothers 24 years and under from 3 months antenatal to 9 months postnatal and for all other parents over 24 years from 6 months antenatal to 9 months postnatal

Referral Packs

Referral Packs are available on request. On receipt of a referral the client family will go onto our waiting list and the referrer will be notified of the expected waiting time.