



Support and friendship
for families

Home-Start **xxxxxxx**

Big HOPES
Big FUTURE

‘Big Hopes Big Future’

Information for families



Everyone needs a bit of help sometimes...

At Home-Start, we know that a stimulating home learning environment helps children's development, and can support them to ready to reach their full potential.

Home-Start's Big Hopes Big Future programme has been designed to help you and your children get ready for the important first steps of going to school or nursery. You might want help with one, two or all of the steps below so that your child can:

- Arrive at school fed and on time
- Play and share with other children
- Recognise their own name
- Understand simple hygiene
- Dress and put on shoes
- Eat and drink unaided
- Cope away from you
- Use the toilet



Trained Home-Start volunteers can provide carefully chosen books, toys and play-based activities which will help you to:

- Engage with your child's early learning
- Establish good bedtime and morning routines
- Access local support and services
- Support you to use positive reinforcement and praise
- Create a positive home learning environment

BESSI

At the end of their first visit, your volunteer will be asked to fill in a '**BESSI**' form (Brief Early Skills and Support Index). This is an evaluation tool developed by the University of Cambridge, so that we can measure the progress your child is able to make from the beginning to the end of your support. It is based on what the volunteer has observed and she/he may ask you to score some of the questions on the form yourself if they have not been able to. For example, they might ask you if your child:

- **Can play with children his or her own age**
- **Does not need help using a knife and fork**

You will be asked to think about your child's behaviour during the previous week, and score on a scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The information that we collect from **BESSI** is anonymous, but the statistics will allow us to show that the support has been successful. It will also help you to see the improvements your child has made towards being ready for school or nursery.