

Ensuring Children Get the Right Help at the Right Time

To make sure children get the right help at the right time, *The Child and Family Assessment* should be:

- **Centred on the child** – whatever their age or their developmental needs, the child's view of the situation must be understood and their feelings considered; their needs must be central to the assessment
- **Participative** – good assessors support children and their families to engage and share their views, wishes and feelings, because assessment is a collaborative process
- **Solution focused in approach** - means families develop, building on strengths and work towards achieving goals
- **Accessible** – to everyone who needs to be involved, for example, use plain and straightforward language and use an interpreter, if needed
- **Transparent** – be clear with the child and their family about the purpose of the assessment and what possible outcomes there might be. Discussion and challenge should be open and honest
- **Inclusive** – recognising and working with the individual needs of children and considering, within this, issues of age, gender, sexual orientation, culture, ethnicity and any special educational needs or disability