

We currently provide another programme of support:

## Starting Right

Providing help and guidance on budgeting, benefits, meal planning, cooking or help with getting fitter as well as support with your child's health and well-being. You can talk to your health visitor or contact us for a self referral form Starting Right Group.

We are now offering a 8 week support group looking at improving Health and well being.

## Our Team:

Sharon Lewis - Executive Manager  
Sue Hunt - BHBF/Starting Right  
Karina Vogan - Senior Admin & Family Support

Funded By:



**Contact us for an informal chat**  
**Home-start Thanet**  
**The Kent Innovation Centre**  
**Thanet Reach Business Park**  
**Millennium Way**  
**Broadstairs**  
**Kent CT10 2QQ**  
**TEL: 01843 609665**  
**Email: [admin@homestartthanet.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestartthanet.org.uk)**

**Company No: 07194840**

**Charity No: 1136708**

**Registered in: England and Wales**

# Home START

Support and friendship  
for families

HOME-START  
THANET

Big Hopes Big Future  
Supporting Parents and their  
Children to be 'ready for SCHOOL'

## A Referrer's Guide



**This is a FREE service**

**[www.homestartthanet.org.uk](http://www.homestartthanet.org.uk)**



## Big Hopes Big Future

Big Hopes, Big Future (BHBF) is an evidence based school readiness programme that actively engages parents in their children's early learning, supporting them to create a positive home learning environment for children.

The programme managed by specialist staff within the Home-Start team, they work alongside trained up Mentors providing a one to one tailored support package to Thanet parents for the period of 6 to 8 weeks.

The BHBF programme focuses on the following areas:

### Home readiness

- \* Availability of stimulating materials in the home
- \* Establishing routines and supporting with challenging behaviors.

### Parental readiness

- \* Ability to engage with their child's development
- \* Creating new ways to make learning fun and capture a child's imagination/interest
- \* Ability to cope with their child being away from them
- \* Ability to access appropriate services from schools, nurseries and childcare professionals
- \* Growing in confidence to approach the school if an issue arises.

### Child readiness

- \* Ability to settle and respond positively within the learning environment
  - \* Ability to give and take within their peer group
- Ability to dress themselves, go to the toilet, tie shoe laces etc. Show they can hold a pencil, know their name, and respond positively to both teaching staff and other children.

## Aims and Objectives

### Aims:

- ⇒ Help parents understand the benefits of early learning for their children and overcome the barriers to their engagement.
- ⇒ Encourage parents to create a positive home learning environment for their children.
- ⇒ Build parents confidence and ability to engage with local Children's Centres, schools, nurseries and specialist support services (where appropriate).

### Objectives:

- ⇒ Expand the BHBF programme to encompass as many Thanet primary and pre-school settings.
- ⇒ Support children to prepare for the transition into nursery/school and start nursery/school ready to learn.
- ⇒ Develop the confidence and ability of parents to create a positive home learning environment for their children and support their children's early learning.
- ⇒ Develop a range of local partnership models to support the on-going delivery of BHBF via local funding routes.

## How we evaluate outcomes

**The Brief Early Skills and Support Index or BESSI is an evaluation tool that has been developed at the University of Cambridge. It is based on a theory of change model and allows us to demonstrate outcomes for children.**

BESSI is a 30-item measure of adjustment. It is not merely a measure of school readiness but can be used to assess children's adjustment and family support throughout the preschool years and the first year of primary school. These guidelines are to assist home visiting volunteers to complete BESSI.

BESSI questionnaire is completed about each child in the family involved in the Big Hopes Big Future program by the home visiting volunteer. The first visit should be used to observe the child and discuss child's current behavior around each indicator without any direct reference to BESSI as it may cause undue worry the parent.

Children are not expected to show a complete absence of problems on BESSI. The BESSI was designed to provide a profile of children's strengths and weaknesses in different areas and should not be viewed as a standard of behavior that all children should achieve. It would be rare for even a 5 years old child to show no problems at all on the BESSI.

In particular, performance on the Language & Cognition and Daily Living Skills scales show age-related changes. Also, some behaviours included in BESSI (e.g.. 'can recognize his/her name in print') cannot be expected from younger children.