

Appendix 3

Family Start Referral Criteria

List A sets out the main criteria for Family Start. Families need to experience challenges in one of these areas to be referred.

List B sets out other areas where families may have challenges. Referrers will be encouraged to refer families/whānau that they believe are high need although might not meet the threshold outlined in List A. List B identifies additional indicators that will be used to explain what a young parent's additional challenges might be and or provide contextual detail for the referral. A referral that only meets one indicator from List B would not be adequate for referral.

List A	Criteria Item and Clarification
	<p>Mental Health issues Either parent /carer has a mental health problem, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-natal depression • Anxiety • Depression • Self-harm or suicidal tendencies • Other (specify)
	<p>Difficulties with alcohol, drugs or gambling Either parent/carer has a problem with one of the following which affects parenting ability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol use • Illicit drug use • Gambling
	<p>Childhood history of abuse Either parent/carer experienced abuse as a child or young person</p>
	<p>Care and Protection history</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child, Youth and Family are, or have been working with this family/whānau • One of more children in this family/whānau have been removed from the family by Child, Youth and Family or some other legal means (i.e through the Family Court) • Family/whānau have arranged for an informal placement of a child due to concerns for their wellbeing
	<p>Relationship problems Evidence of significant relationship problems including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family violence • Conflict • Multiple partner changes or significant instability within the family/whānau
	<p>Child health and development issues One or more of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonding and attachment issues – parents struggling to build rapport, connection and interest with baby/child. • Parents struggling to establish successful feeding and care routines • Child with disabilities or special needs • Recurring health issues – parents struggling with recognising child's needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foetal abnormalities • Little or no ante- natal or post natal care
	<p>Young parent with additional challenges or needs Evidence of any significant relationship problems or difficulties with partner, e.g. family violence, conflict, lack of support</p>
List B	Additional Indicators/ Factors
	<p>Lacks positive support networks Parent/caregiver lacks family/whānau /community support for positive parenting or they have limited connections to their community.</p>
	<p>Financial and material resources One or more of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties managing day-to-day expenses resulting in debt issues • Family housing situation is unstable or unsuitable for their needs • Lack of access to transport. • Lack of basic amenities – no phone, power • Living conditions are chaotic and unsanitary
	<p>Frequent change of address Parents and/ or child have changed address more than twice in the last six months</p>
	<p>Low parent education One or more of the following applies to the parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacks qualifications - no School Certificate or National Certificate of Educational Achievement • Left school early – under 16 or had a significant non-attendance history • Literacy and numeracy difficulties • Has recognised learning disability
	<p>SUDI factors One or more of the following factors apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother smoked while she was pregnant. • Baby has not been breast-fed, or has only been breast-fed for a short period. • Baby was of low birth weight, i.e. less than 2500 grams. • Baby was premature, i.e. less than 33 weeks gestation • Baby was, or is, exposed to second hand smoke • History of premature birth • Safe sleeping issues
	<p>Criminal Justice involvement One or more of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous convictions or charges pending • Protection orders • Youth justice involvement • History of imprisonment

Family Start Referral Form and Guidance for Referral Agencies can be found at:

<http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/documents/working-with-us/programmes-services/early-intervention/new-family-start-march-2012/family-start-referral-guide.pdf>

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