

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION SERVICES IN THE WEST

information < support < specialist services
for families of children under school age with a disability or significant developmental delay



Raising a child can be both rewarding and challenging for families. Raising a child with additional needs can add increased challenges. This information sheet explains how Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) in the west can help.

participation

All children and families should be able to participate in the family and community activities that they choose to. ECIS recognise that some children and families may need additional ideas, support and equipment to be able to do this.

practice and play

Children learn best by practising skills during play and activities in their every day environments such as home, the park, the shops, grandma's and child care. Young children with developmental delays need to be provided with lots of opportunities and experiences to learn and develop.

Early Childhood Intervention Services can help parents and carers to work out ideas and activities that will fit into family life.

Early childhood intervention is really what happens between appointments. It's the practice you do with your child every day that will make the difference.

working together

ECIS is very different to individual sessions where a therapist works directly with your child. ECIS work with you to develop practical ideas to use with your child and family in your daily routine.

Your paediatrician may recommend a certain number of hours of therapy for your child, but more appointments will not mean your child will reach developmental milestones quicker. It's what you do with your child every day that counts.

Your family has a lot of knowledge and information about your child and their unique needs. Our staff come from a range of backgrounds. They have been chosen for their ability to work with children and families, their knowledge of child development and disability, and the services that may be useful to you. We need to work closely together.

your key worker

All families have a Key Worker or Family Service Co-ordinator. They are your main contact person. Together, you will work out what's important to you and develop a plan.

Your Key Worker will connect you to other team members if additional ideas or skills are needed. They will give you information and help you to make links with other organisations that can help your family.

your family service & support plan

All families have a written plan. It will identify how ECIS will support you to work towards your goals. Your plan may look very different to anyone else's because it's about your child and family's individual needs.

Early Childhood Intervention Services may provide your family with:

- information and suggestions
- support and counselling
- links to other services, supports and activities
- childcare and kindergarten inclusion support
- help to access toys and equipment
- support in moving on to school

For more information contact your Early Childhood Intervention Service, or ECIS Central Intake on 9275 7500.

