Who can refer a child to Early Childhood Intervention Services?

Parents may refer their child to Early Childhood Intervention Services. Providing they have parent or guardian consent a range of people including paediatricians, general practitioners, maternal and child health nurses, child care professionals and kindergarten teachers may also make referrals.

Your privacy is protected—information you share with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and other service providers is confidential.

Referrals are made to Central Intake in your Region. Call 1800 783 783 and ask for Early Childhood Intervention Services, or refer to the regional phone numbers inside this brochure.

Information on services can be obtained between 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday on the statewide phone number 1800 783 783 (and ask for Early Childhood Intervention Services).

Alternatively, if you know which region you live in you can contact the Early Childhood Intervention Service Central Intake for your local area by using the following phone numbers.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**
1300 662 655

**Northern Metropolitan Region**
(03) 9304 0775

**Southern Metropolitan Region**
1300 720 151

**Western Metropolitan Region**
(03) 9275 7500

**Barwon South Western Region**
1800 354 605

**Gippsland Region**
1800 33 60 10

**Grampians Region**
(03) 5330 8608 / 5330 8613

**Hume Region**
1800 627 391

**Loddon-Mallee Region**
1300 363 514

Early Childhood Intervention Services support children with a disability or developmental delay from birth to school entry, and their families.

These services build on opportunities for learning and development that are provided at home and through Maternal & Child Health Centres, child care, and kindergarten.

Early Childhood Intervention Services recognise that families are children’s first and most influential teachers.

Families are the primary influence on children’s learning and development.

A child-and-family-centred approach based on a partnership between parents and professionals is at the core of Early Childhood Intervention Services.

The overall aim of these services is to provide parents and families with the knowledge, skills and support to meet the changing needs of their child and to optimise the child’s development and ability to be part of family and community life.

What do Early Childhood Intervention Services provide?

Early Childhood Intervention Services provide a range of specialist services for families with children who have a disability or developmental delay, prior to school entry.

The range of specialist services includes:

- Information and advice that addresses the individual needs of the child and family
- Supporting families to help their child’s development
- Linking families to services and providing access and coordination of services such as respite
- Education and developmental programs
- Additional support to improve access and participation in kindergarten and child care services
- Assisting with the move to school
- Parent support
- Flexible Support Packages to ease some of the additional pressures on parents of children with disabilities and/or developmental delays who have high support needs.

Early Childhood Intervention Services complement the services that are available to all children, including:

- Maternal and Child Health Service
- Kindergarten
- Community Health Centres
- Regional Parenting Services
- Child Care Services
- Play Groups
- Occasional Care