Department of Education
Learners first, connected and inspired

Autism Specific Programs
1. **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**

   Autism is a lifelong developmental disorder that affects a person’s understanding of what they see, hear and sense. This results in problems with communication, social skills and behaviour.

   Autism is a complex condition. At the Early Childhood Intervention Service we offer a number of diverse program options to assist you to meet the special needs of your child and family.

   For details contact the Early Childhood Intervention Service in Burnie, Devonport, Hobart or Launceston

2. **Tasmanian Autism Spectrum Diagnostic Assessment Service**

   We are a community service providing comprehensive diagnostic assessments for children and young people suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

   We work with public and private diagnostic services, including paediatricians, psychiatrists and psychologists when a decision has been reached that a comprehensive and specialised autism spectrum assessment is appropriate.

   Our team is staffed with three psychology positions supported by an executive officer.

3. **Autism parent support group**

   At Autism parent support group you can:

   - come together with other families and support each other
   - listen to guest speakers on topics relating to raising a child with autism

4. **Zone programs**

   Come together with parents and caregivers of other children in a supportive environment and:

   - work on skill acquisition with your child
   - obtain coaching in ways to engage your child in:
     - communicative interactions
     - fun and play activities
     - developmentally appropriate tasks
   - enable your child to enhance their thinking and problem solving skills
5. **Home visit program**

If you choose to be involved in a home visit program these visits will give your family:

- access to support from teachers
- encouragement to work on identified skills and goals between visits

6. **Individual teaching programs**

Your child may benefit from an individualised program with one-to-one focus.

These sessions take place in a controlled environment to minimise distractions and maximise opportunities for success.

In the sessions you can:

- observe interactions and reflect on what is happening
- participate alongside teaching and therapy staff
- discuss the strategies and how you might implement them in a natural setting such as at home or in the park
- be an active participant in ongoing planning and review of the development of your child’s skills

7. **Parent education programs**

You can access a range of parent education programs at times that are convenient to parents and caregivers, including evening sessions so that working parents and caregivers and/or extended family members can attend.

There are a range of programs offered, including:

- general topics, for example, “what is Autism Spectrum Disorder”
- specific topics, for example, behaviour support or siblings issues

8. **Autism specific playgroups**

At the playgroups you can:

- bring your child together with a diverse group of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- practice strategies to enhance your child’s learning
- meet other parents and caregivers and discuss issues
- share ideas and support with other families.
9. Related Documents

The following documents are available from www.education.tas.gov.au (Search for the Doc ID)

- Tasmanian Autism Spectrum Diagnostic Assessment Service (Doc ID: TASED-4-1387)

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