Early Childhood Intervention Service

Centres

**Burnie**
36 Thorne Street, Burnie  
ecis.tasmania.burnie@education.tas.gov.au  
6430 4200  
Fax  6431 1665

**Devonport**
51 Steele Street, Devonport  
ecis.tasmania.devonport@education.tas.gov.au  
6478 4322

**Hobart**
174 Brooker Avenue, Hobart  
ecis.tasmania.hobart@education.tas.gov.au  
6231 1625

**Launceston**
11a Munford Street, Kings Meadows  
ecis.tasmania.launceston@education.tas.gov.au  
6344 1729  
Fax  6343 4925
In partnership for early life learning

Our programs aim to:

- strengthen family enjoyment and engagement in positive interactions with their child
- strengthen family understanding of their child’s abilities and particular learning styles
- strengthen family confidence in supporting their child’s learning
- strengthen family knowledge and skills in accessing other relevant services in the community for their children.
National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
The NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach will be available to all children aged 0-6 with a developmental delay or disability in line with the roll out of the NDIS in Tasmania. From 1 July 2017, the NDIS will be available for children aged 4 to 11. From 1 July 2018, the NDIS will be available for children aged 0 to 3. Further information at https://www.ndis.gov.au/ecei.html

Centrelink Funding Supports

Carer Payment
Carer Payment (caring for a child under 16 years) can provide you with income support if you are unable to support yourself through substantial paid employment while you are providing care to a child aged under 16 years with a severe disability or severe medical condition.

Carer Adjustment Payment
A one-off, non-taxable payment to help families to adjust following a catastrophic event when a child aged 0–6 years is diagnosed with a severe illness, medical condition or a major disability.

Carer Allowance
Carer Allowance (caring for a child under 16 years) is a supplementary payment that may be available if you are a parent or carer who provides additional care and attention on a daily basis for a child aged under 16 years with a physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability or medical condition. Forms and information—Centrelink Phone: 132717. You will need the support of your G.P. or Paediatrician in completing these forms.

FaHCSIA Funding Packages for Children with Additional Needs
The Federal Government introduced two initiatives to assist eligible children with developmental disabilities access funding for early intervention services. The NDIS ECEI approach will eventually phase in to support children previously receiving support through these programmes.

Helping Children with Autism

The Better Start for Children with Disability (Better Start)

Transport Access Scheme (Families may be eligible to apply for this scheme)
The Transport Access Scheme (TAS) assists people who have a permanent and severe disability which prevents independent access into the community. Membership of this scheme is not available to people who have temporary disorders or where their condition is expected to Improve in time.

The Early Childhood Intervention Service
(ECIS) is a service provided by the Tasmanian Department of Education.

We look forward to working with you and your child. Raising a child can be rewarding and sometimes challenging for any parent. Raising a child with additional needs can add increased challenges for families.

You come to us with a lot of knowledge and information about your child. Our team has knowledge about early childhood and ways of supporting development. We are committed to ensuring each child and family is able to join in experiences in their local community.

Early intervention services are based on the idea that help for young children with delays or disabilities works best when parents and professionals work together as partners. We also acknowledge the importance of learning through play.

Early Childhood Intervention Service is much more than therapy. We provide individual services that focus on issues that are important to you. This may include supporting your child’s learning and development through everyday activities and daily life schedules or providing information about other services. We also understand that the family may require some additional support from time to time as well.

The information in this booklet aims to give you a better understanding of the Early Childhood Intervention Service. Please feel free to contact us at any time when you have questions, or want information. We will do our best to try to help, or give you details as to who else may be able to assist.
The Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) aims to help you and your child to participate in the everyday activities that all children and families do. We recognise that you may need additional ideas, support, equipment or developmental programs to achieve this. This is where ECIS comes in.

At ECIS all families have a coordinating early intervention teacher who will work with you to help set goals for your child and family. Your early intervention teacher will work with you to decide what our role will be. They will also help connect you to other members of the team so we all work together with you to find ways to meet these goals.

We can provide a range of services depending upon your needs, options may include:
- home visits to support your child’s development
- short term group programs for children who have similar goals
- short term individual programs
- written materials of relevance to your child’s additional needs
- information about the community services available to you
- prekindergarten and childcare visits to ensure that your child can participate fully in the program and to work with the staff there to meet your child’s additional needs
- helping you and your child with transition into kindergarten.

Programs will change over time to meet your child’s and family’s needs. Other services may include:
- parent education and information sessions
- specific individual teaching sessions designed to help your child develop skills
- helping you to advocate for yourself and your child’s additional needs.

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**Staff at ECIS work as a team**

Our staff are chosen for their knowledge of early childhood development and ability to work together with you. Teachers, teacher assistants, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists and psychologists all work on our team. A complete list of the staff in your region can be obtained from your teacher.

**Confidentiality**

ECIS is committed to protecting your privacy. We support and are bound by privacy laws and strict confidentiality is maintained at all times. In order to plan programs with you we need to collect information from you. This information helps us to assess and plan programs in partnership with you. We do not disclose personal information about you or your child to other people or organisations without your consent, unless we are required to do so by law. We do not ask for personal information about you or your child from other professionals or organisations without your consent. You can look at the information in your child’s file at any time, or request a copy of information in the file.

**Health Policies**

We are conscious of caring for the health needs of all families receiving services from ECIS by maintaining healthy environments for all programs. We ask families to help us by ensuring their children are well when attending any centre-based sessions or receiving home visits. If you have any queries please phone and talk with your teacher.

**Levies**

$40 per year covers all services provided (or term instalments of $10.00). Payment may be made at the ECIS office during centre hours. Low income families may be eligible for the “Student Assistance Scheme” whereby the Department of Education will cover the levy. Forms are available from your teacher.