What do early intervention services provide?

Early 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 include:

- 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
- flexible developmental education programs
- therapy services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology
- additional support to improve access and participation in community services such as child care
- assisting with transition to school

Early intervention recognises 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 intervention.

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.

Early intervention complements the services that are available to all children, including:

- Child Health and Parenting Services (CHAPS)
- Community Health Centres
- Child Care Services
- Play Group Association
- Launching Into Learning Programs
- Child and Family Centres
Who can refer a child to services for early intervention?

Parents may refer their child to services for early intervention.

A range of people including paediatricians, general practitioners, Child Health and Parenting Service (CHAPS) and child care professionals may also make referrals, providing they have parent or guardian consent.

Your privacy is protected—information you share with service providers is confidential.

Who can I contact?

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Who can I receive services from?

Services for early intervention are provided by the Early Childhood Intervention Service and St. Giles. Both service providers offer a range of options to support the needs of children and work collaboratively with families.