

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

“There is compelling evidence that better outcomes for children, families and the community, require a comprehensive, coordinated response at a local community level”.

Centre for Community Health, *The Early Years Project: Refocusing community based services for young children and their families: A Literature Review*, Australia, April 2003.

Early childhood intervention . . .

- Good for children
- Good for families
- Good for communities

Early Childhood Intervention is the process of providing . . .

- specialised support & services
- for infants & young children who have developmental delays or disabilities, and their families
- in order to promote development, well-being & community participation

ECIS provides special education, therapy, counselling, service planning and coordination, assistance and support to access services such as kindergarten and child care.

Services are tailored to meet the individual needs of the child and focused on supporting the child in their natural environments, in their everyday experiences and activities.

The overall aim of these services is to provide parents and families with the knowledge, skills and support to meet the needs of their child and to optimise the child's development and ability to participate in family and community life. All services are provided using a family-centered approach, recognising the importance of working in partnership with the family.

Early childhood - usually includes children from birth to 6 years of age.

Specialised support & services - can be provided by a variety of professionals, such as:

- speech pathologists
- audiologists
- physiotherapists
- optometrists
- occupational therapists
- paediatricians
- music therapists
- nurses
- psychologists
- teachers
- psychiatrists

Specialist services support the family in accessing the range of local supports and services in the community including:

- Child and Family Health Services
- child care
- community health centres
- occasional care
- regional parenting services
- playgroups
- preschools

Specialist services are also available to children and families, including:

- information and parent education
- assessing the individual needs of the child and family
- assisting families to coordinate services
- education and therapy programs
- additional support to improve access and participation in preschool and child care
- assisting the move to school
- parent support through the Strengthening Parent Support Program
- case management and respite through the Early Choices Program.

Bridges for Learning is an active member of

Early Childhood Intervention Australia, which aims to:

- provide a national focus and forum
- promote the public profile of Early Childhood Intervention
- facilitate effective liaison and advocacy in the community
- foster quality information and service provision