



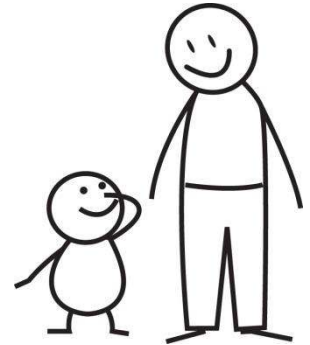
Child Development Service

Referral Information

The Child Development Service is part of the Child and Adolescent Health Service. We provide free services for children in the Perth metropolitan area who are experiencing developmental delays or difficulties.

Working together with families

Parents, carers and families play the most important role in supporting their child's development. The Child Development Service is making changes to deliver a quicker and more responsive service to better meet the individual needs of children and their families. We are focusing on improvements around; earlier contact, provision of information, working in partnership with families, and providing more service options.



Eligibility and referrals

Children are eligible to be referred if they:

- are under the age of 16 years and,
- have a Medicare number and,
- have, or are at risk of, developmental delay or difficulties (i.e. concerns related to speech and language, fine and gross motor skills, social and emotional behaviour).

Children may not be eligible for our services if they are:

- currently receiving developmental therapy services through another government agency (i.e. Disability Services Commission)
- have a diagnosed medical issue but are not at significant risk of a developmental delay.

A referral can be made by parents, legal guardians or professionals. All referrals require parent or guardian consent. Referrals are submitted to the Centralised Intake Team using the Child Development Service Referral Form available on our website ww2.health.wa.gov.au/About-us/Child-and-Adolescent-Health-Service/Child-and-Adolescent-Community-Health/Child-development-service.

What services will families receive?

Families have told us that when they are referred to our service, they would like to discuss their concerns and get ideas for how they can support their child as soon as possible. We will have this first discussion with all families within eight weeks of a referral being accepted.

When we first make contact with a family, often by phone, we will discuss their concerns, goals and priorities, and together we will develop an agreed service plan. Depending on the needs of the child the plan may include a range of service options, such as:

- activity ideas and resources for home, school or day-care
- parent workshops
- individual or group therapy appointments
- information on community programs
- referral to another service.

The plan will be based on:

- working in partnership with the family on goals that are most important to them and their child
- increasing the family's skills and confidence to support their child's development in everyday environments (i.e. home and school)
- allowing time to practice skills
- supporting families to access other services and community resources

We have a team of clinicians who work in different areas of child development, such as Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Social Workers, Clinical Psychologists, Paediatricians, Therapy Assistants, Audiologists and Nurses. Depending on the child's needs, they may see one or more clinicians.

Can families choose private services?

Some families choose to pay for private therapy instead of, or sometimes as well as, using our services. For more information on private therapists visit our website ww2.health.wa.gov.au/About-us/Child-and-Adolescent-Health-Service/Child-and-Adolescent-Community-Health/Child-development-service

Discharge and re-accessing services

Families may leave our service for a range of reasons, such as; by choice, their child completes their service plan, or they change to another service provider. After families leave our service they can always contact us again if they have further concerns for their child as long as they still meet our eligibility criteria.

Services may end, and families may need to go through the referral process again, if:

- they miss an appointment without contacting us
- they don't respond to appointment invitations
- they change their contact details (phone and/or address) without telling us and we can't contact them.

Important referral tips

- Provide as much information as possible on the referral form and attach any other relevant history, reports and information.
- Describe the parents' main concern and how it impacts on the child and family in their everyday life.
- Consider if it is right time to make a referral. We understand that sometimes life is busy and parents may not have the time or capacity to participate in services at a particular point in time. Parent participation is key in achieving developmental outcomes for children.
- Let us know if there are any reasons that may impact on a family's ability to respond to appointment letters, or attend appointments.

If you are a professional (i.e. teacher, GP), please discuss the above with the family and ensure that the parent understands the reason for referral and has provided consent before submitting.

Further information

For more information on the Metropolitan Child Development Service visit ww2.health.wa.gov.au/About-us/Child-and-Adolescent-Health-Service/Child-and-Adolescent-Community-Health/Child-development-service

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

This publication is provided for general education and information purposes. Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.
© State of Western Australia, Child and Adolescent Health Service, July 2016.

CAH-0925 JUL'16