

Early Supports

Welcome to early supports. This programme is recommended if your child is younger than 6 and has developmental concerns (i.e. your child does not have an impairment that is likely to be permanent).

Where will it occur?

Early supports can be provided in individual and/or group settings, and may include:

- Parent workshops on child development topics such as behaviour, feeding or toileting
- Building the skills and capacity of mainstream services, such as early childhood education and care services, to support your child's needs
- Strategies to help your child build their skills and participate in everyday routines – such as visual supports for communication, or positive behaviour support approach to toileting
- Support to build your confidence and knowledge to use the strategies and skills in everyday routines
- Working with you and mainstream services to prepare for significant transitions, such as starting school or preschool

What can it look like?

Your key worker will meet with you and your child to better understand your child's strengths and needs. Early supports are designed to build the capacity of your family and child using parent coaching to promote learning in your home and other environments.

On your initial meeting your key worker will explain the programme and discuss the expectations and outcomes. Together you will create targeted child and family goals to work towards.

Following this your key worker will provide you with a plan detailing a goal focused approach to address specific concerns relating to your child's development.



This plan will include information such as:

- where the supports will happen
- what your goals are
- how you and your child will be supported to pursue these goals
- who will provide the supports
- when early supports will end
- what happens after early supports.
- Linkages to mainstream and community supports

Your key worker may connect with other specific people in your child's life such as childcare, school to support your child's inclusion and participation in this setting.

Supports can be provided at home, in the community or wherever you determine best suits the needs of your child and family.



How long will it last?

Generally early supports will be provided for a period of 3-6 months, or longer if required.

Early supports will give you more capacity and confidence to support your child's needs. Your key workers will connect you and your family to community and mainstream supports that will support and help you navigate the road ahead.

After you move on from early supports, you can reconnect with an early childhood partner at any time in the future before your child turns 9 years old.

For more information scan:

Early
childhood
approach:



Types of early
connections:



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