



Wagga Wagga Early Years  
Learning Centre



Inclusion Support Pack  
**Wagga Wagga Early  
Years Learning Centre**



## Wagga Wagga Early Years Learning Centre Inclusion Pack

At Wagga Wagga Early Years Learning Centre (WWEYLC), we are committed to creating an inclusive environment where every child feels safe, valued, respected, and supported to reach their full potential. We recognise that every child develops at their own pace and that families are experts in their child's unique strengths, interests, and needs.

This Inclusion Support Pack has been developed to help families access information, resources, and local support services that may assist their child and family throughout their early learning journey. Sometimes families or educators may notice developmental, behavioural, social, emotional, or health concerns and may be unsure where to seek advice. Early support and intervention can make a significant difference to children's outcomes and overall wellbeing.

Our educators work closely with families to identify strengths, celebrate achievements, and provide support when needed. We encourage open and respectful communication and are committed to connecting families with appropriate local services and professionals who can provide additional guidance and assistance. Together, we can ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive, participate, and belong within our service and the wider community.

# Signs Your Child May Need Pediatric Therapy

It is natural to have questions about your child's development. Every child grows and develops at their own pace, however the following signs may indicate that additional support could be beneficial.

## Speech and Language Development

- Limited babbling by 6 months of age
- Not using first words by 12–15 months
- Difficulty understanding or following simple instructions
- Difficulty combining words into short phrases by 2 years of age

Speech pathology can support children to develop communication, language, and social interaction skills.

## Motor Skill Development

- Difficulty holding toys, crayons, or utensils
- Frequent clumsiness or poor coordination
- Delays in crawling, walking, running, or jumping

Occupational therapists and physiotherapists can help children develop strength, coordination, balance, and fine motor skills.

## Sensory Processing Differences

- Strong reactions to sounds, lights, textures, or certain environments
- Difficulties with clothing textures or food textures
- Constantly seeking movement, such as spinning, jumping, or running

Therapy can help children understand and manage sensory experiences more comfortably.

## Social and Emotional Development

- Limited eye contact or social interaction
- Difficulty coping with changes in routine or transitions
- Challenges expressing emotions or regulating behaviour

Early support can help children build social skills, emotional regulation, and positive relationships.

## Everyday Living Skills

- Difficulty dressing, feeding themselves, or brushing their teeth
- Challenges focusing on tasks or following multiple instructions
- Frequent frustration when attempting new activities

Therapists can support children to build confidence, independence, and essential life skills.

Remember: Every child develops differently. Having one or more of these signs does not necessarily mean there is a concern. If you have questions about your child's development, speak with your child's educator, GP, or one of the local support services listed in this guide.

# What is Early Intervention and Why is it Important?

Early intervention is the support provided to children who may be experiencing challenges with their development, learning, communication, behaviour, movement, or social and emotional skills. These services can include speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology, and other specialist supports.

The first five years of life are a critical time for growth and development. During these early years, children learn and develop rapidly, making it the ideal time to identify concerns and access support. Research shows that children achieve the best outcomes when support is provided as early as possible.



## Areas Early Intervention Can Support

Speech and language development

Fine and gross motor skills

Social and emotional development

Sensory processing

Learning and cognitive development

Independence and daily living skills

## Taking the First Step

### 1. Observe and Discuss Concerns

If you have concerns about your child's development, speak with your child's educator or service management team.

### 2. Speak with Your GP

Your GP can discuss your concerns, assess your child's needs, and provide referrals to appropriate services if required.

### 3. Access Support Services

Depending on your child's needs, you may be referred to services such as speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology, community health, or early intervention providers.

### 4. Work Together

Families, educators, and health professionals can work together to support your child's development and help them reach their full potential.

**Remember:** Every child develops at their own pace. Seeking advice early does not mean something is wrong; it simply ensures your child has access to the support they need to thrive.

# Early Intervention Contacts

Early intervention is the support provided to children who may be experiencing developmental, behavioural, learning, or communication challenges. By identifying concerns early and accessing appropriate support services, children can develop the skills and confidence they need to participate fully in everyday learning and social experiences.

In the early childhood setting, early intervention helps ensure children receive the right support at the right time, leading to improved outcomes for their learning, wellbeing, and development.

## Early Intervention and Developmental Support

### **Intereach - Wagga Wagga 1300 488 226**

Provides support for families who have concerns about their child's development, developmental delay, or disability. Families do not require a diagnosis to seek advice and support. Intereach can assist with referrals, early supports, and NDIS access where appropriate.

### **Kurrajong 1300 764 620**

Provides early intervention and therapy services including speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, family support, and key worker programs for children with developmental delays or disabilities.

## Speech Pathology Service

### **Grow With Me Speech Pathology 0488 541 891**

Support for speech, language, communication, literacy, and social communication development.

### **Murrumbidgee Speech Pathology 0409 147 574**

Support for speech, language, literacy, feeding, and communication development.

### **Collaborative Health Murrumbidgee (02) 5954 9999**

Multidisciplinary allied health service including speech pathology.

## Autism-Specific Support

### **Spectrum Autism Therapy and Consultation (02) 5954 1541**

Specialised autism assessment, consultation, and support services for children and families.

### **Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)**

Provides autism-specific early childhood supports, family-focused intervention, therapy, and play-based programs

## **Occupational Therapy Services**

### **Sunnyside Therapy 0480 343 552**

Paediatric occupational therapy supporting sensory processing, emotional regulation, fine motor skills, and school readiness.

### **Riverina Occupational Therapy 5924 5810**

Occupational therapy services for children requiring support with everyday skills and participation.

### **Bidgeekids Occupational Therapy 0414 881 342**

Paediatric occupational therapy specialising in child development and functional skills.

### **Light Up Their World Occupational therapist 0498 121 962**

Occupational therapy supporting sensory, emotional, and developmental needs.



# Wagga Wagga Health Services - Located in Wagga Wagga Base Hospital

## **Identify the concern**

If you have concerns about your child's speech, language, communication, or development, you can speak with your child's educator or service management team.

## **Make an initial referral**

Families can contact the Community Care Intake Service (CCIS) directly by calling 1800 654 324. Alternatively, the childcare centre can send an initial contact form to CCIS on behalf of the family.

## **Complete the initial contact form**

If the centre is sending the form, the child's parent or carer must sign the initial contact form before it can be submitted.

## **Send the form to CCIS**

The completed form should be emailed to: [MLHD-CCIS@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MLHD-CCIS@health.nsw.gov.au)

## **CCIS will contact the family**

CCIS will contact the parent or carer to gather further details if needed.

Complete the Speech Pathology Referral Questionnaire

CCIS will send a Speech Pathology Referral Questionnaire to the nominated person, either the parent/carers or the childcare centre.

## **Return the questionnaire**

The completed questionnaire must be returned within 2–3 weeks by email to:  
[MLHD-Wagga-PaediatricSpeechPathology@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MLHD-Wagga-PaediatricSpeechPathology@health.nsw.gov.au)

## **Referral is reviewed**

Once the Speech Pathology Service receives the questionnaire, it will be reviewed and assessed.

Child is placed on the waiting list

If the referral is accepted, the child's name will be added to the speech pathology waiting list.

## **Appointment is offered**

The family will be contacted when the child's name reaches the top of the waiting list and an appointment becomes available.

**Please note:** CCIS can also be contacted for referrals to speech pathology or occupational therapy where a child has needs in one area of development. If a child has needs in two or more areas of development and may require support from multiple services, families may benefit from contacting Intereach for multidisciplinary support.

# How Paediatric Therapy Can Help

## **Speech Pathology**

Speech pathologists support children with communication, speech sounds, language development, social communication, and feeding difficulties. Therapy can help children understand and express themselves more confidently.

## **Occupational Therapy (OT)**

Occupational therapists help children develop fine motor skills, sensory processing, emotional regulation, independence, and everyday living skills such as dressing, eating, and toileting.

## **Physiotherapy**

Physiotherapists support children with movement, strength, balance, coordination, posture, and gross motor development. They can assist children to achieve important physical milestones and participate confidently in play and daily activities.

## **Psychology & Behaviour Support**

Psychologists and behaviour support practitioners help children develop social skills, emotional regulation, confidence, resilience, and positive coping strategies.

## **Feeding & Mealtime Support**

Some therapists provide specialised support for children who experience difficulties with chewing, swallowing, food textures, selective eating, or mealtime routines.

## **Family-Centred Support**

Paediatric therapy is most effective when families, educators, and therapists work together. Therapy focuses on building on a child's strengths and supporting them to participate fully at home, in early learning environments, and within the community.





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**[waggawaggaearlyyearslearningcentre.com.au](http://waggawaggaearlyyearslearningcentre.com.au)**