



Early Childhood Approach - Information for Professionals

Link Health and Community is the Early Childhood Partner delivering the Early Childhood Approach for children under 9 in Outer East Melbourne, Inner East Melbourne, Southern Melbourne, Inner Gippsland, and Outer Gippsland for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The early childhood approach supports children younger than 9 and their families.

Who can access the Early Childhood Approach?

- Our early childhood approach helps children younger than 6 with developmental delay or;
- Children younger than 9 with a disability

Children younger than 6 do not need a diagnosis to get support through our early childhood approach. We are here to support families to make informed choices about available services and supports to get the best outcomes for their child. We will tailor our support to their child's individual needs and circumstances.

How can you support families in accessing the Early Childhood Approach?

- Supported Phone Referral **P:** 1800 546 532
 - Call the above number with the family, our professional team will support the family with the referral process
- Supported Electronic Referral **W:** www.linkhc.org.au
 - Assist the family to complete the referral form
- Families can call the 1800 546 532 number to access the Early Childhood Approach
- Children do not need a formal letter, diagnosis, or referral from another professional to access the Early Childhood Approach
- Interpreter services are available for families

Some of the ways we may assist families:

- Work with families to understand their child's needs and the goals they have for their child
- Connecting families with practical information to help understand their child's developmental needs
- Connecting families and their child with services and supports in their local community
- We may provide families with a short period of early supports
- We will support families to apply to the NDIS, if they decide to apply on their child's behalf
- If the child becomes an NDIS participant, we will work with the families to develop an NDIS plan

For more information about our service visit www.linkhc.org.au and <https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/families-and-carers/early-childhood-approach>