

# School & Education Services



# School Based Therapy

## Who we are

We are one of Melbourne's most experienced and comprehensive private Speech and Occupational Therapies providers, supporting families since 2006. We offer support to clients, families, communities and schools.

## What we offer

We offer speech and occupational therapy services in our clinics located in Northcote, Coburg, Footscray and Eltham as well as in community and education settings.

Best practice for therapy services is for children to receive services in their natural environments such as schools. This allows them to learn the skills they need in the environments they need to use them, and allows for greater collaboration between the key people in the child's life.

We have therapists available to provide school based services now!

## Ready to get started?

Reach out via email  
[reception@deewardrop.com.au](mailto:reception@deewardrop.com.au) –  
attention to Julia, Assistant Clinical Director- School and Education Services

## How we can help *For schools*

Students are only absent for 45 minutes, not a whole morning/afternoon or even day to attend appointments- this means better attendance!

One therapist! We know how hard it is to coordinate multiple therapists for multiple children across multiple classrooms. We can consolidate services and streamline communication.

Providing therapy sessions on the school site also allows our therapists to have contact with teachers more easily, and to make sure therapy incorporates classroom themes.



## *For families*

Appointments can conveniently be scheduled during school hours without child (and parent/carer) needing to take time off work or school to attend our clinics.

Offering services to multiple families onsite means we do not charge the standard travel fee of \$75 that is usually applied for out of clinic services.



## Frequently Asked Questions (For Schools)

### How long do sessions run?

Students will be absent from class for approximately 45 minutes. Session times can be rotated amongst students so ensure they don't consistently miss the same subject or class.

### How much do sessions cost?

**Under this model of care, schools are not charged service fees.**

Families are billed at our standard sessional rate, and we do not charge our standard travel fee when providing services to multiple children on school grounds.

### What is required of the school?

All that the school is required to do is provide a quiet space for therapy to be conducted in. If therapists are able to connect to the school wifi, this is very much appreciated as we document electronically.

### How does the program work?

If we have contacted you, we have noticed that we see multiple students from your school at our clinics, across different therapists and time slots. Families may have also requested school visits as part of their care, however due to therapist schedules, this may not be able to be accommodated.

If you have an available space, we will reallocate clients to a therapist who can spend the entire day onsite at your school, and offer these appointments to our clients. If we have capacity to see more students, the school can provide information to families seeking services, or recommend families seek services with us to be conducted on school grounds.

Families will then be offered therapy supports at school (weekly or fortnightly) for the term. Therapy times are adjusted during the term to ensure students don't miss out on the same school subject.

Notes will be sent home and copied to the teacher after each session to give you some ideas of things to follow up in the classroom.

All students are followed up in our clinics in school holidays to review goals with families and make recommendations for further therapy.

Our administrators will then book in appointments at the therapist's recommendation, and advise the school of the appointment listing for the term.

### How do I book sessions?

**Schools are not responsible for bookings** or able to alter/change bookings on the family's behalf. Schools are able to direct queries, or queries from families, to our reception team.

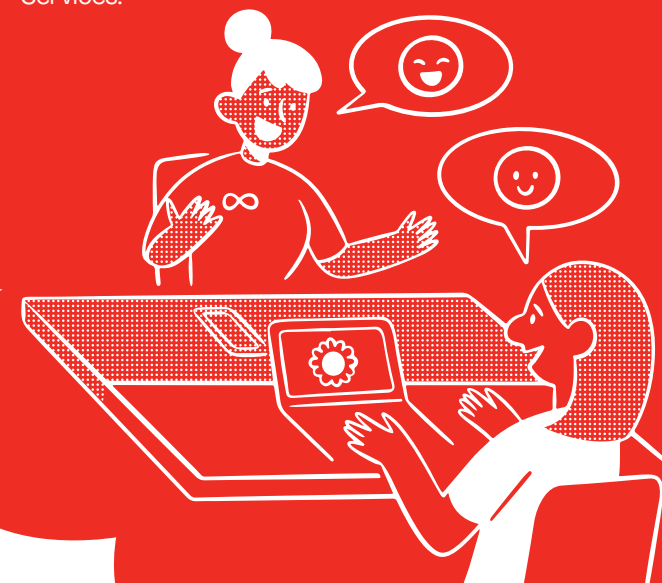
### What happens if a student is unwell or is away from school?

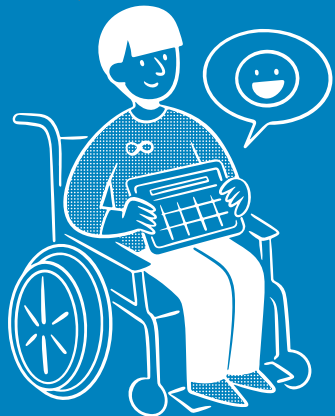
Families are responsible for notifying the clinic if the child is absent from school or unavailable for an appointment due to school events.

We appreciate when schools provide us with term dates or special events to allow our therapists to plan and manage their workday.

### We have more questions!

We are happy to answer any questions and discuss further. Contact us via email [reception@deewardrop.com.au](mailto:reception@deewardrop.com.au) – attention to Julia, Assistant Clinical Director- School and Education Services.





## Frequently Asked Questions (For Families)

### How long do sessions run?

Sessions will be booked for 60 minutes per client. This includes up to 45 minutes of direct/face to face care and 15 minutes for documentation.

Up to 15 minutes may be used by the clinician for indirect care including resource creation, talking to a teacher (with consent) or calling a parent to provide feedback within the scheduled session. Families will be advised if additional time is required and billed accordingly.

### How much do sessions cost?

Families are billed at our standard sessional rate of \$195 per 60 minute session. You may be able to access Medicare or Private Health rebates on your sessions.

Offering services to multiple families onsite means we do not charge the standard travel fee of \$75 that is usually applied for out of clinic services.

### How does the program work? And when do I talk to our therapist?

To get started, clients will be booked in for an initial appointment at one of our clinics (Northcote, Eltham, Coburg), usually within the school holidays.

This will be billed at our standard initial appointment rates and includes a phone call with you (parent/carer) to gather background information, a face to face session with your child, followed by a report and recommendations.

At this time, your clinician will advise whether further (specific) assessments are needed. If required, these will be scheduled in DWSP clinics and billed accordingly.

Your child will then be offered therapy supports at school (weekly or fortnightly) for the term. Therapy times are adjusted during the school day to ensure students don't miss out on the same school subject, and parents are welcome to attend the session too.

Notes will be sent home (and copied to your child's teacher) after each session to give you some ideas of things to follow up at home.

Following a term of therapy, a review appointment or phone call will be scheduled during the school holidays at one of our clinics.

This is an important part of your child's therapy plan to ensure families have the strategies they need to support skill development, any new concerns can be addressed, and ongoing recommendations can be made for the following term.

### How do I book sessions?

All bookings are coordinated through the DWSP clinic. The school is unable to alter or change bookings on your behalf, and will direct you to our reception team to manage your child's sessions.

### What happens if my child is unwell or is away from school?

Families are responsible for notifying the clinic if the child is absent from school or unavailable for an appointment due to school events.

We request as much notice as possible to enable us to offer appointments to other students who are waitlisted for the service, and to allow our therapists to plan and manage their workday.

In the event of non-attendance or late notice, families will be charged according to our non attendance policy, which is provided to all new clients when registering.

