



Child Development Service



Autism: information and services available for children and families

There are a range of services available to autistic children and their families. Child Development Service clinicians can help you find appropriate services.

Where can I get more information?

- **Autism – Parents' Handbook** ddwa.org.au/resources/autism-parents-handbook
Outlines available services and support for autistic children in Western Australia.
- **Autism Association of Western Australia** 9489 8900
autism.org.au/our-services/advice-and-information
An advisor can offer specialist autism advice, explain what supports your child can receive and the services you can choose from. The association also offers a free playgroup for children under 6 years with delayed communication and play skills for families that are not accessing NDIS funded therapy providers.
- **ENVISAGE** 07 3861 6079 or **ENVISAGE First Peoples** 07 3861 6299
envisage.community
Free peer-support program that empowers, supports and connects parents and caregivers raising a child aged 0 to 8 years living with a disability and/or developmental concerns.
- **Positive Partnerships** 1300 881 971
positivepartnerships.com.au
Free workshops and online information for families with school-aged autistic children.
- **Autism Connect** 1300 308 699
amaze.org.au/autismconnect
Free national autism helpline providing information over phone, email, or webchat.
- **Autism Awareness Australia** autismawareness.com.au
Information about therapies and supports for autistic children.
- **Playgroup WA** 1800 171 882
playgroupwa.com.au
Find a local playgroup, including facilitated PlayConnect+ playgroups for children aged 0 to 5 years who have developmental concerns or a disability. There are also PlayConnect+ school holidays sessions for 5 to 8 year olds and their parent or caregiver.
- **Raising Children** raisingchildren.net.au
Information on child development, autism, and parenting, including online 'Early Days' workshops.
- **Autism CRC** autismcrc.com.au
An independent, national source of evidence that provides recommendations and practice points for the support that autistic children and their families receive.



Government Funded Therapy Services

■ National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

■ Under 9 years: **Wanslea** 1300 969 645

wanslea.org.au/programs/early-childhood-approach-eca

Wanslea coordinates free Early Childhood Approach (ECA) services for children under 9 years with developmental delay or disability on behalf of the NDIS. You will need to register for the service – you can contact Wanslea if you need someone to help you.

■ Over 9 years: **NDIS** 1800 800 110

ndis.gov.au/understanding

Children with a diagnosed disability may be able to receive free intervention services through the NDIS. You will need to register for the service – you can contact your Local Area Coordinator (Advanced Personnel Management 1800 276 522 or Mission Australia 1800 370 776) if you need someone to help you.

Private Therapy Services

■ Medicare's Chronic Disease Management Plan 13 20 11

health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbsprimarycare-chronicdisease-pdf-infosheet

Program provides rebates for certain allied health services. Talk to your family doctor to see if your child is eligible and to arrange appropriate referrals.

■ Medicare's Mental Health Care Plan 13 20 11

servicesaustralia.gov.au/mental-health-care-and-medicare

Program provides rebates for appointments with a psychologist or appropriately trained occupational therapist or social worker for mental health problems. Talk to your family doctor to see if your child is eligible, and to arrange a referral.

Carer Support

■ Carer Allowance 13 27 17

servicesaustralia.gov.au/carers-allowance

You may be eligible for the Carer Allowance, an income-tested government payment for people who provide daily care to a person with extra needs.

■ Carers WA 1300 227 377 carerswa.asn.au

Carers WA provides support to parents of autistic children. This service includes free and low-cost counselling services, education and advice to help parents build resilience and coping skills.

■ Kiind WA 6164 9806 kiind.com.au

Kiind provides free support to families of children living with a disability and/or developmental delay, including emotional support and help with finding appropriate services and resources.

Child care and education support

■ Child care – may be able to arrange extra support for your child. Let your child care staff know that your child has an autism diagnosis and ask if any help is available. The child care will need a letter and the Autism Assessment Report to apply for assistance.

■ School Supports – some children benefit from assistance at school to participate in classroom activities and enhance learning. Let your child's school staff know that your child has an autism diagnosis and ask if any help is available. Your child's school will need a letter and/or the Autism Assessment Report to apply for assistance.

For more information about the metropolitan **Child Development Service** scan the QR code, visit cahs.health.wa.gov.au/ChildDevelopment or phone [1300 551 827](tel:1300551827).



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