

Early Start Diagnosis Support

The time of diagnosis of a disability can be confusing and emotionally overwhelming for parents and their families. For some, diagnosis is a rapid process, and for others it can be painfully long and drawn out.

While it is helpful to understand what is going on and there can be relief in finally knowing, it can also be challenging to come to understand what a diagnosis may mean for the child, parents and family in the future.

What is offered to parents?

The Early Start Diagnosis Program aims to provide you with counselling and support at the very difficult time when you are either seeking a diagnosis for your child's difficulties, or have recently received a diagnosis of a disability for your child.

What is involved?

There are up to 8 sessions available for each family that enters the program. The individual needs of each family are considered and the content and structure of sessions are tailored to meet those needs.

Early Start Diagnosis Support is provided free of charge to eligible families.

Support may look like:

- Providing support and information to you throughout the assessment and diagnosis process of your child. This will support you to understand more about your child's individual needs.
- Providing you with information and suggestions that may be helpful in caring for your child with a disability. While all children are recognized to be unique, there may be specific parenting strategies to support the optimal physical, mental and emotional development of a child with a disability.
- Giving you an opportunity to explore your own feelings and responses to your child's diagnosis.
- Linking you up to relevant resources, services and supports within your community, in order to facilitate the needs of your child and family.
- Assisting you to develop skills that can support you in dealing with other people around your child's needs ie: assertive communication skills. Parents with a child with a disability often find themselves dealing with a range of professionals at various times in their child's life. Being able to work collaboratively with others (personal and professional) in your child's life is a critical skill for producing the best outcomes for your child.
- Linking you up with a parent support group, if appropriate and desired.



Diagnosis Support in Wingecarribee

In the Wingecarribee Region, the program is being delivered by Bridges for Learning. Staff involved are trained in child development, early intervention and counseling.

The service is offered in your family home, with other options available (ie: Bridges for Learning Centre).



Assisting with early childhood learning and development.

Phone: 4861 4054

25 Thompson Street Bowral
Fax: 02 4861 6527

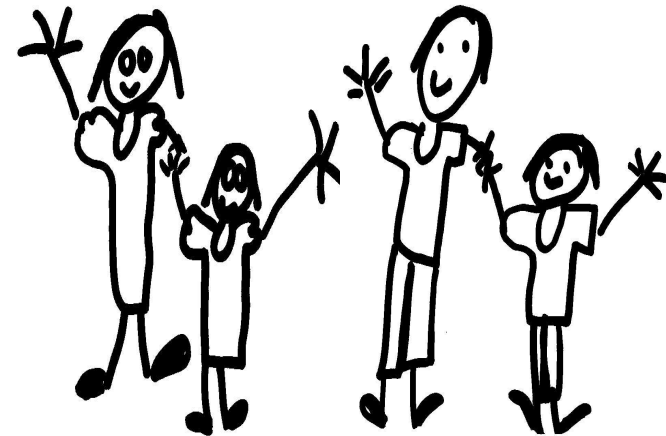
family@bridgesforlearning.org.au
www.bridgesforlearning.org.au

This program is delivered throughout Sydney (and regions of Sydney south and east) by Learning Links in partnership with Koorana and Bridges for Learning. For more information about programs in other areas you can also contact Sandra Samuel at Learning Links on 8568 8227.

The program is funded by the NSW Department of Aged, Disability and Home Care.

Early Start Diagnosis Support

A program for parents of young children with a disability



Helping Kids Learn

