



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Thriving Kids Model | Support in the environments where children live, learn and play

Supports for children 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs

Identification of potential delay

There are many different people who may identify developmental delay or identify that support is needed:



Parents, carers and kin may identify concerns and suspect a delay.



ECEC and schools may discuss concerns with parents if they suspect a delay.



General health services such as GPs, child and family health nurses and paediatricians can undertake a health/development check for early identification of concerns.

Intake points: multiple entry pathways

Linked closely to state-based intake points

More Self-directed/ soft entry points

Online and digital points to help people find supports (wayfinding)

More active entry points

Commissioned providers and relevant private providers with relevant professionals (allied health, GP, child and family nurse, early childhood practitioner etc) offering **assessment of need** (based on function) and **matching child to appropriate supports**. May also undertake periodic reviews to understand if needs have changed.

Enablers

- National Digital Child Health Record
- Resources, training and support to up-skill those working with children, including workforce in ECEC/Schools

Child and family level of need for support

Low need

Low to moderate need

Moderate need

Significant permanent disability

Best-Practice Universal Supports and Information

Aimed at empowering parent-led approaches and shifting developmental trajectory

Can be accessed with Targeted Supports.

Parenting supports and programs:

Families may access a mix of:

- Online parenting courses and programs focussed on child development and neurodiversity (autism)
- Locally organised group activities, facilitated playgroups (may include allied health drop in)
- Local in-person parenting courses and programs focussed on child development and autism
- In-person and online peer support
- Supports delivered in nurturing settings to help families and children play, interact and learn together

Information and advice

- Online and general information and advice on childhood development (and autism-specific advice)
- Online information about available services, supports and parenting courses
- Potential national phone line for parenting advice

NB: State and Commonwealth governments currently fund parenting supports. The Thriving Kids model will fund additional supports to increase availability and access to developmental delay and disability-specific assistance.

Thriving Kids

Enriching environments where children live learn and play.

Supported by capability building of professionals working directly with children in community settings in ECEC and Schools. Delivered in a way that enriches and supports carers, educators, teachers and does not add to administrative burden.

All supports aimed at developing and building the capability and capacity of: children, families and broader systems/services

Best-Practice Targeted Supports

Aimed at shifting developmental trajectory

Allied health (including low cost assistive technology) and more individualised capacity building

Delivered by: allied health professional and early childhood intervention workers. Delivers supports focused on the child, the family and how they interact in other systems/services (e.g. ECEC/school educators)

Delivered through: mix of group and 1:1 delivery, in person and virtually (includes MBS GP and referred allied health services as an option). May be in community-based hubs, delivered in natural settings (e.g. ECEC, home, school)

Lower support needs:

- One form of intervention (e.g. for group or individual occupational therapy sessions)
- Single worker/discipline approaches to build capacity and capability

Moderate support needs:

Multiple forms of intervention (e.g. speech pathology, OT and physiotherapy). Transdisciplinary key worker approaches to provide 1:1 support and facilitate connections across collaborative teams, providing child and family capacity building and connection with other required supports

National Disability Insurance Scheme

For children with significant and permanent disability

Families can enter or re-enter at any point. The Thriving Kids model adapts to changing needs—providing the right support, at the right time, without barriers.

Thriving Kids stepped model of support