



Child Development Service



The right services for your child

There are a wide range of community, public and private services that support children and families. Deciding which services are right for your child and family can be hard.

This handout explains some of these services.

If your child has been referred to the **Child Development Service** (CDS), we can help you decide whether our service or another service would best meet your child's and family's needs.

For more information about CDS, visit cahs.health.wa.gov.au/ChildDevelopment

Child health and parenting services

Child Health Nurses provide a range of free services to help families raise happy, healthy children. You can contact your local Child Health Centre to ask about your child's health and development, and for help with common childhood concerns such as:

- behaviour
- mealtimes
- nutrition
- parent-child relationships
- play
- sleep
- toileting.



The nurse may talk with you about other services in the community or online information that you might find helpful. For more information, visit cahs.health.wa.gov.au/CommunityHealth

If your child is older, you can talk to your child's teacher to find out about school health services. You might like to ask about making an appointment with a School Health Nurse.

Other government-funded services

- The Early Childhood Approach (ECA), funded by the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** (NDIS), supports children under 9 years who have a disability, or children under 6 years who have a developmental delay or concern.
 - Wanslea is the early childhood partner that delivers the ECA in Perth.
 - If your child is under 6 years and you have significant concerns about their development, you may wish to consider applying for their services. A diagnosis is not required to access the ECA if your child is under 6 years.
 - For information, visit ndis.gov.au/understanding or wanslea.org.au/programs/early-childhood-approach-eca
- The NDIS supports children 9 years and older with permanent and significant disability to access necessary services and supports. For information, visit ndis.gov.au/understanding
- **Child and Adolescent Health Service – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services** offers support, advice and treatment to children up to 17 years old, and their families, who are having problems with their relationships and/or how they think, feel and behave. For information visit cahs.health.wa.gov.au/Our-services/Mental-Health



Medical services

If you think your child is unwell, or you are worried about a medical condition or injury, please talk to your child's doctor. CDS does not provide urgent or general medical services.

Private developmental services

Some families choose to pay for private developmental therapy services instead of, or sometimes as well as, CDS.

These questions may help you decide which private clinician might be best for your child and family:

- What are your qualifications? What is your area of specialty?
- What age group do you usually see?
- Where will the service be provided (home, school or clinic)?
- What services are offered? Are the services for groups or individuals?
- Will I receive a written report?
- What will the appointment cost? Do you bulk bill?
- Are you registered with Medicare and/or my private health insurer to provide rebates? Can you tell you how much the rebate is?

Talk with your doctor to find out if your child can receive a **Medicare** rebate for private developmental services. For more information, visit [ServicesAustralia.gov.au](https://www.ServicesAustralia.gov.au) or phone 132 011.

Where to find private services

You can search for private services in the list below.

These websites only include services that CDS also provides. The list does not include all professionals who work with children and families.

Audiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Audiology Australia (audiology.asn.au)
Occupational Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Developmental Occupational Therapy WA (dotwa.org.au)■ Occupational Therapy Australia (otaus.com.au)■ WA Occupational Therapy Association (waota.com.au)
Physiotherapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Australian Physiotherapy Association (choose.physio)
Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Australian Clinical Psychology Association (acpa.org.au)■ Australian Psychological Society (psychology.org.au)
Social Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Australian Association of Social Workers (aasw.asn.au)
Speech Pathology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Speech Pathology Australia (speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)
Paediatrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ You need a doctor's referral to see a private Paediatrician

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

