



## EARLY INTERVENTION THERAPY SERVICES

**High quality, early intervention can transform a child living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or developmental delay.**

**At a young age, a child's brain demonstrates greater plasticity, which enhances their ability to develop new skills for communication and social interaction.**

**The Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) practiced at the Child Development Institute (CDI) is specifically designed for the treatment of children aged between 12 months and 5 years. It is structured around play and child choice to increase motivation and a child's propensity to learn.**

### ESDM Assessment

An ESDM Assessment is a comprehensive developmental assessment specifically designed for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It reveals what a child is capable of and exactly where to begin our teaching.

Parents are fully informed of the outcomes of their child's assessment and receive a detailed report and personalised teaching plan, which they can use at home and for NDIS funding applications.

### Start Strong – School Readiness Program

This program has been developed to equip children with an ASD diagnosis with the necessary skills to confidently enter their school setting. With a ratio of 3 therapists to 6 children, each child will be supported to develop social awareness, emotional intelligence, concentration, listening and cognitive skills.

### ESDM Clinic

The ESDM clinic is a high quality, highly intensive, one-to-one therapy with a certified ESDM therapist. The goal is to bridge the learning gaps that have accumulated over time and to construct the building blocks a child needs for social interaction.

### Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is used to support a child's development of fine motor, gross motor and personal independence skills. Our occupational therapists are registered and fully qualified to teach the ESDM. They can also provide programs to manage sensory-based challenges and support a child's development of emotional regulation.

### ESDM Intensive Group Therapy – Inclusion Readiness Program

ESDM Intensive Group Therapy is a 2-hour session (Wollongong) or a 3-hour session (Western Sydney) for a group of just six children in each room conducted by certified ESDM therapists and a multi-disciplinary team, which includes a speech pathologist, occupational therapist, psychologist and early childhood teachers.

Therapists follow each child's personalised set of objectives with the additional focus on social interaction, communication and individual skills in a more naturalistic setting.

The group setting enables a child to enhance peer interactions by participating in group activities and following routines and transitions. The high child to therapist ratio of 2:1 ensures quality.

**ESDM Intensive Group Therapy is particularly effective preparing children for inclusion in a mainstream early childhood setting or to increase participation in a child's current pre-school or long-day care setting.**

### Speech Pathology

Speech pathology is integral to the ESDM. It helps inform the sequence of speech development from oral-motor, phonemic and word development to vocabulary development, grammar and word combinations.

Speech pathology is crucial to the development of a child's communication and, if required, guides the use of augmentative and alternate communication approaches. Registered speech pathologists who are also certified ESDM therapists conduct speech pathology sessions at the CDI.

### For further information contact us:

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