

Newsletter

Term 3, 2011

It is heartening to see that both state and federal governments are recognising of the importance of early childhood intervention and are committed to providing funding to support it.

The NSW government has committed to another five years of Stronger Together funding. This means an additional \$2 billion for 2011-16 in addition to the \$2.02 billion in the last five years. EarlyEd successfully tendered for funding under the first round of Stronger Together. As a result, EarlyEd has grown significantly in the past two years and has been able to offer services to an additional 55 families as well as broadening the range of services we offer.

The state government is currently undertaking consultations as to how disability services will be shaped in the next five years. It is important for the views of families with young children to be heard. For more information about the consultations, see **p2** of this newsletter.

There are two federally funding initiatives:- the *Helping Children with Autism* is specifically for children with a diagnosis of Autism and *Better Start* is for children with a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome, Fragile X, hearing impairment, visual impairment or deafblindness. Further information about the new Better Start package can be found on the FAHCSIA website or by asking your service co-ordinator for a fact sheet.

Some families have expressed concern that their child is not eligible for either of these federal funding initiatives. A Better Start equality petition has been started by concerned parents. More details can be found in this newsletter under websites.

ECIA is offering sponsorships to assist families of young children with a disability (who are not yet at school) to attend the ECIA State Conference. See **p2** for details of sponsorships.

In terms 3 and 4, we have a range of information sessions for families. These include a 3 session toilet-training workshop, a communication workshop on the use of visuals and a behaviour workshop.

Finally, to minimise disruption to families, groups will be held in the first week of term 4 however there will be no groups held or individual sessions held during the week 24th - 28th October. This will allow us to have our team planning day and allow all staff to attend the ECIA State Conference which is an important source of professional development for those working in the field of early childhood intervention.

Simone Gerber
Director

Term 3	
Staff planning week begins	18th July
First day for Music Therapy at North Sydney	18th July
First day for Music Therapy at Rosehill	20th July
Staff Development Day	19th July
First day for Early Learners Groups	25th July
1st session of Toilet training workshop at Rosehill	26th August
1st session of Toilet training workshop at North Sydney	6th September
Last Music Therapy for term 3 at North Sydney	19th September
Last Music Therapy for term 3 at Rosehill	21st September
Review week begins	19th September
Term 3 ends	23rd September
Term 4	
First day for Early Learners Groups	10th October
First day for Music Therapy at North Sydney	10th October
First day for Music Therapy at Rosehill	12th October
Behaviour workshop - Rosehill - day session	21st October
Staff Development Day	25th October
ECIA State Conference - no groups/ sessions	27-28th October
Behaviour workshop North Sydney - evening session	2nd November
Visuals workshop at Rosehill -morning session	11th November
Visuals workshop at Rosehill -evening session	15th November
Visuals workshop at North Sydney -evening session	23rd November
Term 4 ends for children	16th December
Term 4 ends for staff	20th December

What's inside?

Book reviews
Sponsorship opportunity
Play ideas
New staff
and much more

Donations

ALL DONATIONS TO EARLYED OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE





SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Would you like to attend the 24th ECIA NSW Conference, *Building capacity in early childhood intervention practice: How do we do it?*

ECIA (NSW Chapter) have received some support funding from Ageing, Disability & Home Care (NSW Department of Family and Community Services) and the NSW Department of Education and Communities, to assist families of young children with a disability (who are not yet at school), to attend this year's conference in Sydney, from 27th-28th October. Detailed information about the conference & its programme can be found on the ECIA NSW website: www.ecia-nsw.org.au (select the "ECIA Conferences & PD Events" page).

To be eligible for this sponsorship, you must be a financial member of ECIA. You can join (or renew your membership) by completing a downloaded Membership Form from the ECIA NSW website (on the "Membership" page) and sending it with your membership fee (\$55 for a family member) to: Membership Secretary, ECIA NSW, P.O. Box 4752, NORTH ROCKS 2151 or Fax: 9872 8251, prior to submitting your application for sponsorship.

A condition of receiving financial support is that sponsored members agree to share the information gained at the conference with others interested in early childhood intervention in their local area, and to write a short article for the ECIA members' magazine, Early Edition.

If you would like to apply for sponsorship, write a short paragraph that includes:

- (1) **why you would like to attend the Conference;**
- (2) **how you will be able to share and use the information gained among other parents and/or the service staff in your area**
- (3) **what your travel and accommodation plans would be if attending the conference.**

Please provide contact details including your address, home & work phone, mobile number and e-mail address, where applicable.

The grant will assist with Conference registration. A contribution towards travel, accommodation and/or childcare costs may also be offered, subject to available funds.

All enquiries to the ECIA NSW Chapter office Ph: 9873 2593

E-mail your application, by Monday 29th August to: admin@ecia-nsw.org.au

Consultations- Living Life My Way

Have your say about how services for people with disabilities will be shaped in the next five years. Consultations with people with a disability, their families and carers, as well as workshops with service providers are now being held.

The consultation sessions will involve small focus group discussions with people with a disability, their families and carers so that every participant has an opportunity to have their say.

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
West Ryde Ryde Eastwood Leagues 117 Ryedale Rd West Ryde	11th August	10.30am - 12 noon 2.00pm - 3.30pm 5.30pm -7.00pm
	12th August	10.30am - 12 noon
Parramatta Northcott Disability Services 1 Fennell St North Parramatta	15th August	10.30am - 12 noon 2.00pm - 3.30pm 5.30pm -7.00pm
	16th August	10.30am - 12 noon
Baulkham Hills Crowne Plaza Norwest 1 Columbia Court Baulkham Hills	10th August	10.30am - 12 noon 2.00pm - 3.30pm 5.30pm -7.00pm
	17th August	10.30am - 12 noon
Hornsby Hornsby RSL 4 High St Hornsby	18th August	10.30am - 12 noon 2.00pm - 3.30pm 5.30pm -7.00pm
	19th August	10.30am - 12 noon

To register go to www.pcasummit.net or call (02) 4984 2554.

If you can't attend a consultation you can make a submission by e-mail: pcaconsultations@dhs.nsw.gov.au

STAFF NEWS



Leanne Forster (classroom assistant at North Sydney) is our new classroom assistant at North Sydney. Leanne is returning to the paid workforce after spending the past 13 years raising her 3 boys. She enjoys running to keep fit.

Staff Training

EarlyEd prides itself on having a strong commitment to staff Professional Development. In term 2, all staff undertook First Aid training and are now all qualified to perform basic first aid.

Amanda Cox (speech pathologist) attended a key signing workshop and Rose Tritton (speech pathologist) attended the Hanen It Takes Two to Talk training.

Thank you

- to the volunteers who spent a day at North Sydney making much needed resources, such as visuals and puzzle bags, for us.
- to staff from AMP Foundation who spent a day at Rosehill making much needed resources, such as visuals and finish boxes, for us.

Both groups were organised through United Way's Corporate Volunteer programme.



TOILET TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Is your child:

- Healthy with no medical condition or medication that could affect bowel or bladder function?
- Able to sit and move independently?
- Able to remain dry for 2-3 hours between nappy changes during the day?
- Able to indicate when they are wet or dirty?

Then you may therefore be interested in attending our Toilet Training Parent Workshops

We will be running a series of 3 interactive evening workshops for a group of 10-12 families whose children are ready to begin the toilet training process.

You will be expected to attend all 3 workshops. These will be followed up with a phone-call or home visit after the programme has ended.

There is a small charge for these workshops. The cost for all 3 workshops plus the follow is \$40 per family to be paid on acceptance of a place in the programme.

If you are able to commit time to toileting training your child in the next few months and would like to attend these workshops.

RSVP by 19th August to:
North Sydney - Yael Rosman - yrosman@earlyed.com.au
Rosehill - Namrita Singh nsingh@earlyed.com.au



IMPORTANT FOR ALL FAMILIES

FUNDING APPLICATIONS for

Department of Education and Training

ISP (Intervention Support Program)

EarlyEd relies on receiving annual funding through the Department of Education and Training's Intervention Support Program.

As this funding is child specific we must submit the names of the children to whom we are providing a special educational service. Consequently, each year we ask families to sign a copy of the Parent/Carer Certification Form.

Your child can be funded under the ISP for a maximum of 2 services. That is, **one** early childhood intervention services (e.g. EarlyEd, ASPECT, RIDBC, Vision Australia) and **one** mainstream service (e.g. preschool).

Please be aware that if you sign forms **for more than one early childhood intervention service**, the Department of Education and Training will determine which organisation receives the funding and this may not actually be the organisation that you want funded.

To assist families keep track of the forms they have signed, EarlyEd has introduced a new procedure.

All families will receive a photocopy of the signed form to keep on their file. This will assist families to keep track of where they have signed the form.

Children who are not funded at EarlyEd (*their families have signed with two other organisations*) will be not be eligible for our programmes as we have a waiting list for our services.



SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR FAQs

What is a service co-ordinator?

The service co-ordinator is your primary contact for the EarlyEd team. They are the person that is responsible for passing on information or questions from you to the relevant person in the team.

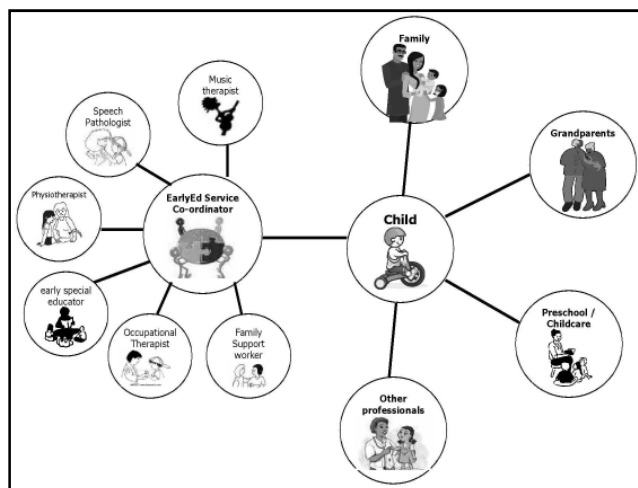
How do I know who is my service co-ordinator?

Usually your service co-ordinator is the person you have the most contact with. If you attend an *Early Learners* group, this may be the educator or it may be another member of the EarlyEd team. If you are not sure who your service co-ordinator is, please ask any member of the team.

What does the service co-ordinator do?

Some of the things the service co-ordinator is responsible for are:

- helping you decide concerns and priorities that are important to your family
- helping schedule appointments at a convenient time for your family
- organising Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings and regular reviews
- writing-up and distributing of the IFSP
- ensuring that we are continuing to work on your family's priorities
- assisting you with your child's transition to preschool / childcare
- organising visits to your child at preschool / childcare
- assisting you with your child's transition to school
- informing you about local community services, resources and supports
- ensuring information is received and understood by your family
- liaising with EarlyEd team members to ensure relevant information is shared
- contacting and liaising with other professionals working with your child



Websites

Fact Sheet for families about the federal governments Better Start funding

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/people/betterstart/Documents/parent_carer_fs.pdf

Helping Children with Autism package

<http://www.facs.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/people/HelpingChildrenWithAutism/Pages/default.aspx#5>

Petition to help all Children with a disability have Equal Opportunity to the Governments Better Start Initiative

Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHsvYqJyi5U>

Petition - <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/better-start-equality.html>

Compliments, concerns and complaints

If you have a compliment, concern or complaint - there are lots of ways of letting us know.

Send an e-mail to: sgerber@earlyed.com.au



Phone me on 9923 2727



let a member of the team know

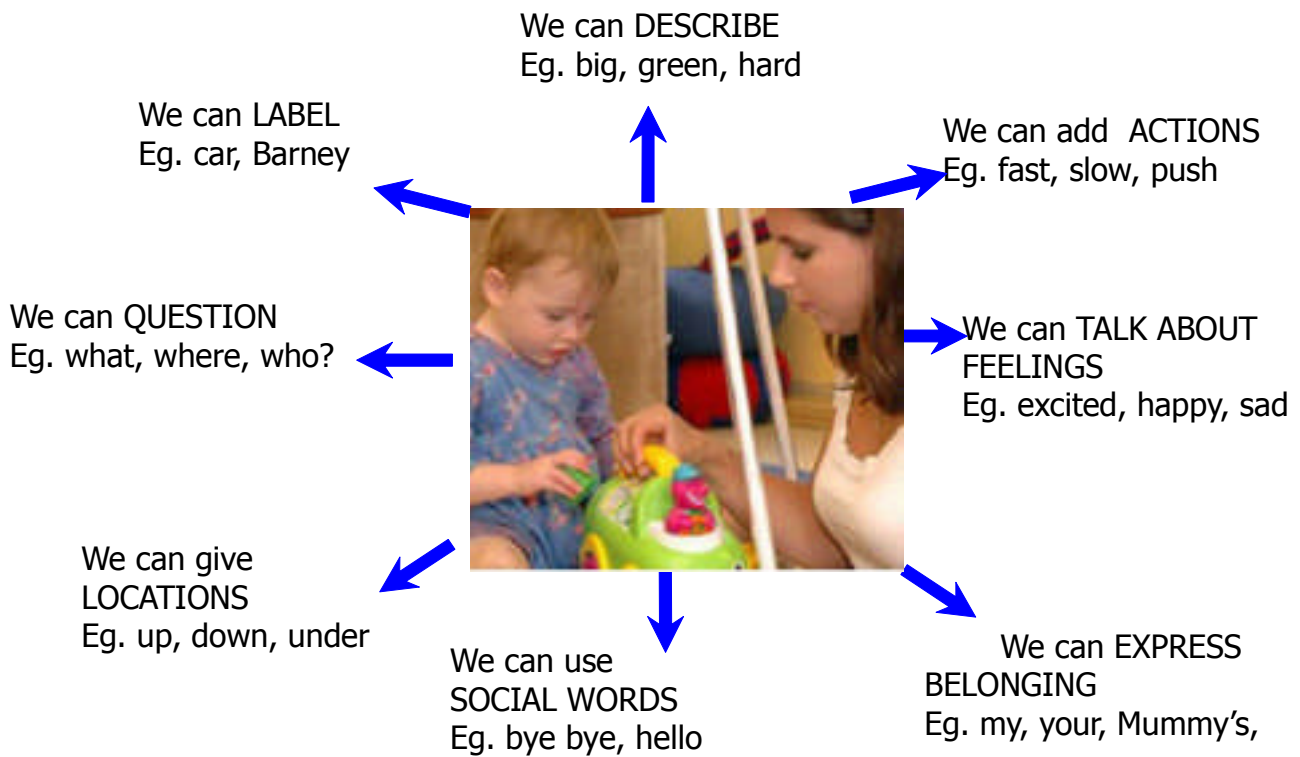
Write a letter or note and post it to:

Simone Gerber (Director)
19/248 Miller St,
North Sydney 2060



or email / talk to a member of the Management Committee (they are listed on the back page)

Adding Language to Interactions



Vicki Cox – Learning Links Speech Pathologist 2007

BALL SKILLS

Early movement experiences need to take place in an atmosphere of encouragement and fun. Play with your child as you build their confidence and motivation to explore further challenges.



Ball skills require the ability to judge distance and speed along with accurate eye-hand and eye-foot coordination.

- Start with lots opportunity to throw, chase and kick balls before learning to catch.
- When starting to catch begin with large, slow moving balls that are also light such as a beach ball, balloon, gertie ball etc.
- Catching a ball rolled to a child while sitting using a small cushion, bean bag or large prickly ball is best when starting to learn to catch.

Suggested Ball Activities

Rolling a ball

- for the child to stop and say their name.
- down a slope/slide/board for another child to catch.
- through a short tunnel.
- to knock down skittles.

Batting

- a balloon to keep it off the ground.
- a suspended balloon with a fly swat.
- a ball suspended in a stocking using a sponge bat or feather duster.

Catching

- a ball while sitting.
- a ball while standing
- a balloon
-

See also "Ball Skills" in Moving On by Lisa Sloan and Jennifer Kemp Consultants 2004

We'll Paint the Octopus Red

Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

Woodbine House, 1998 ISBN 1 890627 06 2

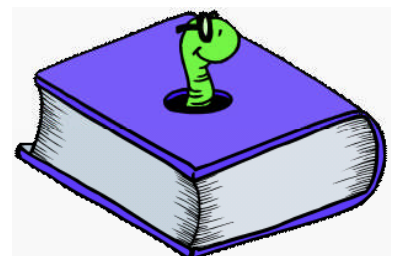
This lovely story helps young siblings feel more positive about their new brother or sister while subtly encouraging their support and involvement. The book concludes with a set of commonly asked questions with answers for children about Down syndrome and how it might affect their families. The wonderful colour illustrations help make We'll Paint the Octopus Red a beautiful, reassuring book for siblings of children with Down syndrome that's sure to become a family favourite.

My Brother, Matthew

Mary Thompson

Woodbine House, 1992 ISBN 0 993149 47 6

My Brother, Matthew is a realistic, compassionate tale about how family life typically focuses on the needs of a child with a disability, and the effects that can have on the other kids in the family. Fully illustrated with beautiful watercolours, My Brother, Matthew will encourage siblings to share their emotions and reassure



Parent Parents Helping Parents

Would you like the opportunity to talk to another EarlyEd parent - to someone "who understands"?

Parents of children with disabilities/delays can provide invaluable support to each other by sharing experiences, frustrations, knowledge and joys.

EarlyEd is now offering a parent-to-parent support programme which is a network of volunteer parents who are available for personal contact with you if you would like to talk to someone "who understands".

This support will be by phone and the "supportive parent" will keep in contact with you for up to 6 months. The "supportive parent" is not a counsellor or therapist, but is someone to talk to who has experienced first hand many of the same issues you may be facing.

If you are interested in talking to one of our "supportive parents" or would like more information about this programme, please contact Lesley by phone on 9897 1511, or email lburnett@earlyed.com.au

Lesley Burnett
Family Support Worker
(Special Projects)



Siblings groups

EarlyEd as a family-centred service recognises that brothers and sisters of children with special needs may need benefit from having the opportunity to meet other children who also have a sibling with special needs. Siblings groups allow children to obtain peer support and education within a recreational context.

EarlyEd's sibling groups are usually run every school holidays for approximately three hours, and have a small cost attached.

For further information, contact your family support worker.

North Sydney	Renee Lea	rlea@earlyed.com.au	or 9923 2727
Rosehill	Anu Andrade	aandrade@earlyed.com.au	or 9897 1511
Playgroup	Lesley Burnett	lburnett@earlyed.com.au	or 9897 1511



On Thursday 14 July Sibling Group was held at EarlyEd North Sydney, with six siblings attending for three hours of fun.

Staff

Director - Simone Gerber

Accounts/ Admin - Maryna Staver

Music Therapist

Jann Birks

North Sydney

Early Special Educators

Amy Cowden

Julia Liebmann

Stephanie Weatherburn

Family Support Worker

Renee Lea

Occupational Therapist

Yael Rosman

Physiotherapists

Jenny Berry

Mary Robinson

Speech Pathologists

Rose Tritton

Classroom Assistant

Leanne Forster

Family Support Worker

(Special projects)

Lesley Burnett

Rosehill

Team Leader -

Leanne Unie-Day

Early Special Educators

Leanne Unie-Day

Maureen Lyons

Hong Pan

Liz Ryan

Family Support Worker

Anu Andrade

Occupational Therapist

Namrita Singh

Physiotherapists

Kathy Gardiner

Cathy Galbraith

Jenny Berry

Speech Pathologists

Margaret Redmond

Sonia Gugnani

Amanda Cox

Classroom Assistant

Kim Burdus

Mobile Playgroup

Special Educators

Kylie Holding

Maureen Lyons

Physiotherapists

Kathy Gardiner

Jenny Berry

Speech Pathologists

Margaret Redmond

Sonia Gugnani

Amanda Cox

Bilingual Worker

Louise Mueller

EarlyEd Management Committee

President:

Janine Lindberg

(mother of Maili - North Sydney)

Vice President:

Shelley Crumlin

(mother of Tarini- Rosehill)

Secretary:

Peta Crafter

(mother of Rory- North Sydney)

Treasurer:

Rosemary Flavel

(Early Childhood Intervention rep)

Committee:

Kylie Gava

(mother of Kaitlyn - Rosehill)

Alex Huntington

(mother of Arabella - North Sydney)

Stacey Skoljarev

(mother of Harry - North Sydney)

EMAIL: managementcommittee@earlyed.com.au

EarlyEd Services

IFSPs - individual family service plans are developed with all families and are reviewed regularly.

Individual Programme (1:1)

- Individual sessions with Special Educator / PT / SP / OT- Fortnightly or monthly
- Phone support to preschool /childcare can be offered
- Family support as needed
- Community visits including preschool / child care / home / other – 2 visits per term in total – may be by any member of team

Early Learners

- Weekly group session with Special Educator, PT / OT / SP / FSW attend fortnightly
- 1 visit to preschool/childcare per term
- Community visits including preschool / child care / home / other – 2 visits per term in total – may be by any member of team

Preschool Support Programme

- 3 x visits per term
- May receive a block of SP or PT or OT each term at EarlyEd
- Family support as needed
- Community visits including extra preschool / child care or home / other – 2 visits per term in total – may be by any member of team

School Readiness Programme

- Weekly school readiness group 6 weeks per term including parent sessions
- May receive a block of SP or PT or OT each term at EarlyEd
- Community visits including extra preschool / child care or home / other – 2 visits per term in total – may be by any member of team

Home Visits Programme

Rosehill only - for families unable to get to our Rosehill centre

- Initial appointment with 2 members of team, thereafter:
- Fortnightly / monthly visits by primary worker
- May have one off visit by another discipline for assessment and goal development.

Music Therapy

open to all families

MOBILE PLAYGROUP

The playgroups are for families who are currently on a waiting list for services, and are currently not accessing any form of early childhood intervention.

Playgroup operate 3 mornings per week at 3 different locations:- Monday -St Joachim's School, Lidcombe
Tuesday – Westmead Progress Hall
Wednesday – Auburn North Public School