

Promoting Inclusion In The Community

The long term goal of early intervention is to support children to be included in their community and in everyday activities. Children are directly supported by EarlyEd to develop the skills they need by providing intervention out in the community such as shopping centres or parks.

Over the past year, EarlyEd has been involved in five key areas of community inclusion as part of collaborative community programs. We are pleased that our commitment to promoting inclusion has earned us the Inclusion Champion badge from Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA) NSW/ACT.



Inclusion In Early Childhood and School Settings

EarlyEd recognises that collaborative opportunities between families, service agencies and educational staff increase the opportunities for improved outcomes for children. EarlyEd supports a child's readiness to learn through shared goal setting and individual strategies that reflect the child's needs.

In the past year, through our ConsultEd service, EarlyEd delivered workshops / capacity building training sessions to 13 early childhood centres. This training endeavoured to provide educators with practical strategies they can implement to support the inclusion of children with a disability. Workshops were delivered across a range of topics including Key Word Sign, Does This Child Need Help, behaviour, communication, sensory processing and play. EarlyEd staff also conducted over 2,300 visits to preschools, childcare centres, schools, playgrounds and homes over the past year. That's an average of 9.3 visits per day by staff, supporting children, their families and community.

Play For All - Inclusive Playgrounds



EarlyEd has been supporting councils as they undertake inclusive play activities and developments. A major project has been the Northern Beaches Council's Inclusive Playground project, in collaboration with Play for All Australia. The project saw the redevelopment of five pocket parks in Belrose, as part of a collaborative partnership between local artists, designers, engineers, early childhood educators, allied health professionals and council staff, to support child development and play for children of all abilities. EarlyEd provided best practice evidence about early childhood intervention approaches to inform the inclusive design ideas developed.

School Holidays In The Royal Botanic Garden

Families involved with EarlyEd had identified limited availability of school holiday activities suitable for children with disability. This led to a collaboration between EarlyEd and the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, that resulted in inclusive opportunities for children with disabilities to participate in school holiday programs offered at the Garden. The inclusive activities have provided a welcoming space for children with additional needs and their families who may otherwise not have visited the garden. The sessions were run for two holiday periods in 2017, with further school holiday sessions planned for 2018.

Promoting Inclusion In Sport

Through our SportEd program, EarlyEd has helped children to develop the skills needed to participate in mainstream sporting activities. We worked with local sporting clubs to support teachers / coaches to help a child to successfully participate in their chosen sport. More widely, a collaboration with Football NSW resulted in EarlyEd presenting at their disability coach workshop. Plans are underway for projects with Sport NSW next year.

Vision For Inclusion For Vivid Sydney



Destination NSW, together with their access & inclusion partner Cushman & Wakefield, have a vision to make Vivid Sydney as inclusive as possible for all members of the community. EarlyEd was pleased to be invited to join Play for All Australia and more than 100 passionate minds as part of the ideation session: 'The Creation of Sensory Rich Play Experiences for All Children, including Those With Special Needs'. The input will impact the planning process for Vivid Sydney in the future.