

Inclusive Directions – Service Description

Early Years Intervention Program

Inclusive Directions is a not-for-profit, independent boutique organisation with a long history of promoting and supporting children's inclusion across a range of settings including education, care and community. We offer individual direct assistance to children, a diagnostic and therapeutic service, a range of early intervention and behaviour support programs, and support to families to build their skills and networks. We advocate for and support strong communities through our programs, services and training.

Inclusive Directions delivers services in metropolitan Adelaide, and across regional South Australia.

General and Specific Service Supports

Our clinicians deliver a range of specific services in ECCC's and Schools and include:

- Psychology
- Speech Pathology
- Occupational Therapy
- Behaviour Support

School Readiness Program:

The School Readiness Program (SRP) was developed to support children to learn the practical skills required for successful participation at school, within the context of a simulated classroom. This program was specifically designed for children with ASD and related disorders who are attending mainstream schools. This program specifically minimises the impact of the child's disability, and therefore increases their level and the quality of their participation in the learning environment.

Behavioural and Inclusion consultations – ECCC's:

Our behavioural consultations support teachers and early years educators to address the often challenging behaviours they experience in their day to day lives and transitions, through information, advice and guidance. These challenging behaviours often relate to transitions from home to ECCC environments and from ECCCs to school. These behavioural consultations directly relate to a child's ability to begin to, or continue to successfully access these environments. Conducted by a Senior Behaviour Therapist, Developmental Educator, Speech Pathologist or Psychologist these consultations include observations of the child at the centre of the support request, standardised assessments (where required) and consultation with parents and teachers to understand and determine the specific behaviours experienced. As a result of these consultations, parents and teachers are provided with expert advice, information to assist with managing behaviours, the environment, adaptations and guidance regarding supports and services available to them (both mainstream and disability-specific).

Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention (include Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) and transdisciplinary programs)

Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) as a therapeutic approach for early intervention has the greatest documented evidence for its ability to improve outcomes for children with ASD. Evidence has shown that ABA based interventions are able to decrease symptom severity and increase IQ, learning rate, language skills, visual-spatial skills, social skills and adaptive behaviour compared to other treatments or no treatment. Schooling outcomes (academic and social) are also improved through ABA based interventions. Essentially ABA teaches children “how to learn”. ABA increases a child’s capacity to participate within learning environments, and also teaches essential skills to enable to acquisition of skills.

Group based Early Intervention and Supports: Run by Allied Health professionals, these group based early intervention sessions enhance skills and development in essential domains such as language development, cognitive development, fine and gross motor skills, better enabling children to fully participate in mainstream ECCC’s and preschools and improving long term learning outcomes.

Supported Disability Specific Playgroups – Metro and Regional Locations

Disability Specific Playgroups are run by experienced behaviour therapists to assist in the development and acquisition of essential skills for learning and development. The Inclusive Playgroups are run on a weekly basis. The behaviour Therapist and Playgroup Coordinator (with extensive disability experience) plan and facilitate developmentally age appropriate learning activities, provide advice and information to families about their child’s development and learning and inform families of relevant support services in their area. Therapists are consulted to support the program and attend when necessary. Other health and community services attend or are engaged with to support children and families as required.