

Helping Children with Autism Funding

1 Stop Paediatric Services is an accredited 'Early Intervention Service Provider Panel' enabling us to provide services to children up to 7 years of age, under the federal funding initiative:

'Helping Children with Autism Package'

Each child can access up to \$6,000 of funding per year to be spent on eligible therapies - speech pathology, occupational therapy and psychology up till seven years of age.

To be eligible for the early intervention funding a child must be diagnosed with Autism, Asperger Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorder and be registered with an Autism Advisor before their sixth birthday.

Families can access this service through the Autism Advisor at Autism SA by visiting www.autismsa.org.au or by phoning **1300 288 476**. Once registered you can ring any one of our therapists for an appointment to start early intervention services for your child.

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Paediatric Physiotherapist
Phone 08 8725 5383

Victoria Callaghan
Physiotherapist
Phone 08 8725 5383

Tania Thompson
Limestone Coast Occupational Therapy
Phone 0439 389 154 or 08 8725 5383

Michelle Cook
Speech Pathologist
Phone 0407 232 427

Jenni Pearce
Psychologist
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General Enquiries
Monday 9.30am - 5pm
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1stop



Integrated Child Therapy

Paediatric Physiotherapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech Pathology
Psychology
Family Health & Education

Paediatric Services

Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is a health profession that offers support and advice for children who are having difficulties in their everyday living skills. Occupational therapy services are provided in a variety of settings including hospitals, community centres, private facilities and some educational facilities (e.g. schools and special units).

An Occupational Therapist can assist your child (0-18yrs of age) through the use of a sensory integration, play and developmental approach with difficulties in the following areas if required:

- Attention and concentration difficulties including **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**
- Learning delays / developmental difficulties / behaviour and self esteem issues
- Disorders of relating and communicating such as **Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**
- Functional challenges / self help skills (e.g. feeding, toileting, dressing, shoe tying, bike riding)
- Fine Motor / Gross Motor Difficulties including limitations in motor planning, coordination, grasp, handwriting and daily activities
- Sensory processing / sensory integration challenges
- Children with challenges in this area can be either over-responsive or under-responsive to the sensory inputs of touch, sound, sight, smell, taste and also sensations that relate to body awareness and movement (proprioception)
- Visual-spatial processing/visual perceptual challenges



Paediatric Physiotherapy

Paediatric Physiotherapy addresses the health and wellbeing of infants, children and adolescents with focus on optimising physical function and development. Paediatric Physiotherapists work with a variety of conditions affecting :

- **Musculoskeletal system** (*the bones joints & muscles*)
- **Cardio respiratory system** (*the lungs & breathing*)
- **Neurological system** (*the brain, spinal cord & nerves*)
- **Development & co-ordination**

Parents are advised and educated on their child's condition and how to enhance their child's physical development. Paediatric Physiotherapists can also assist children with neurological disorders such as **Spina Bifida** or **Cerebral Palsy**.

This may include developmental screening and assistance with management of disabilities, programmes, advice on activities and stretches offered by the physiotherapist can assist in maintaining full range of movement and prevention of contracture.

We offer advice and recommendations for specialist equipment or orthotics (splints, insoles etc) which will assist in achieving either postural control / management or mobility. Suggestions on toys, home and school furniture.



Psychology

Parenting can be a challenging role, particularly if your child has developmental delays. Child psychologists are specially trained to assess and work with children, identify any problems, and make recommendations. A psychologist can suggest different approaches to manage your child's behaviour, help your child cope with changes and challenging situations, boost your child's learning progress at school and build your child's social skills and resilience.

Sometimes the psychologist will assess your child's development, using enjoyable puzzles, games and questioning. It can be useful to collect information from your child's teacher or other professionals involved, or to observe your child in their preschool or school setting.

A written report can be provided if necessary. You do not need a referral from your child's doctor or paediatrician to see a psychologist, but it is a good idea to talk to the doctor first. Where appropriate, the doctor may write a referral to a psychologist to enable you to access some Medicare benefit towards the cost.

Speech Pathology

Speech Pathologists are health professionals who can access and provide therapy for children who are experiencing difficulties relating to their communication development.

Speech Pathology services may consist of individual therapy sessions, and include support to other relevant people in the child's environment about their specific program. Children may be supported to learn spoken language, signing or picture based communication systems (i.e. PECS), depending on their individual needs.

A speech pathology program will be developed to promote the child's understanding and use of spoken words (this may consist of words, pictures or signs to express their needs.) Children may also be assisted to learn how to use their speech sounds correctly.

Each child's program will be reviewed at regular intervals to monitor progress and re-evaluate ongoing therapy goals.

Most therapy will be conducted in play based activities working with toys that are highly motivating to the individual child.

